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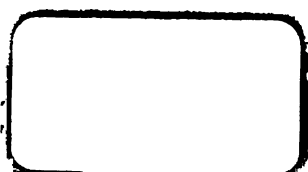
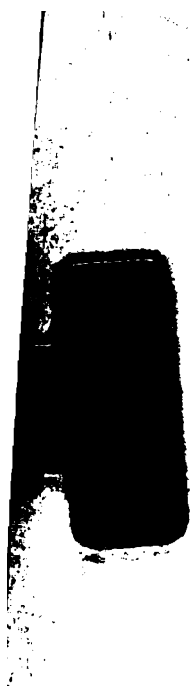
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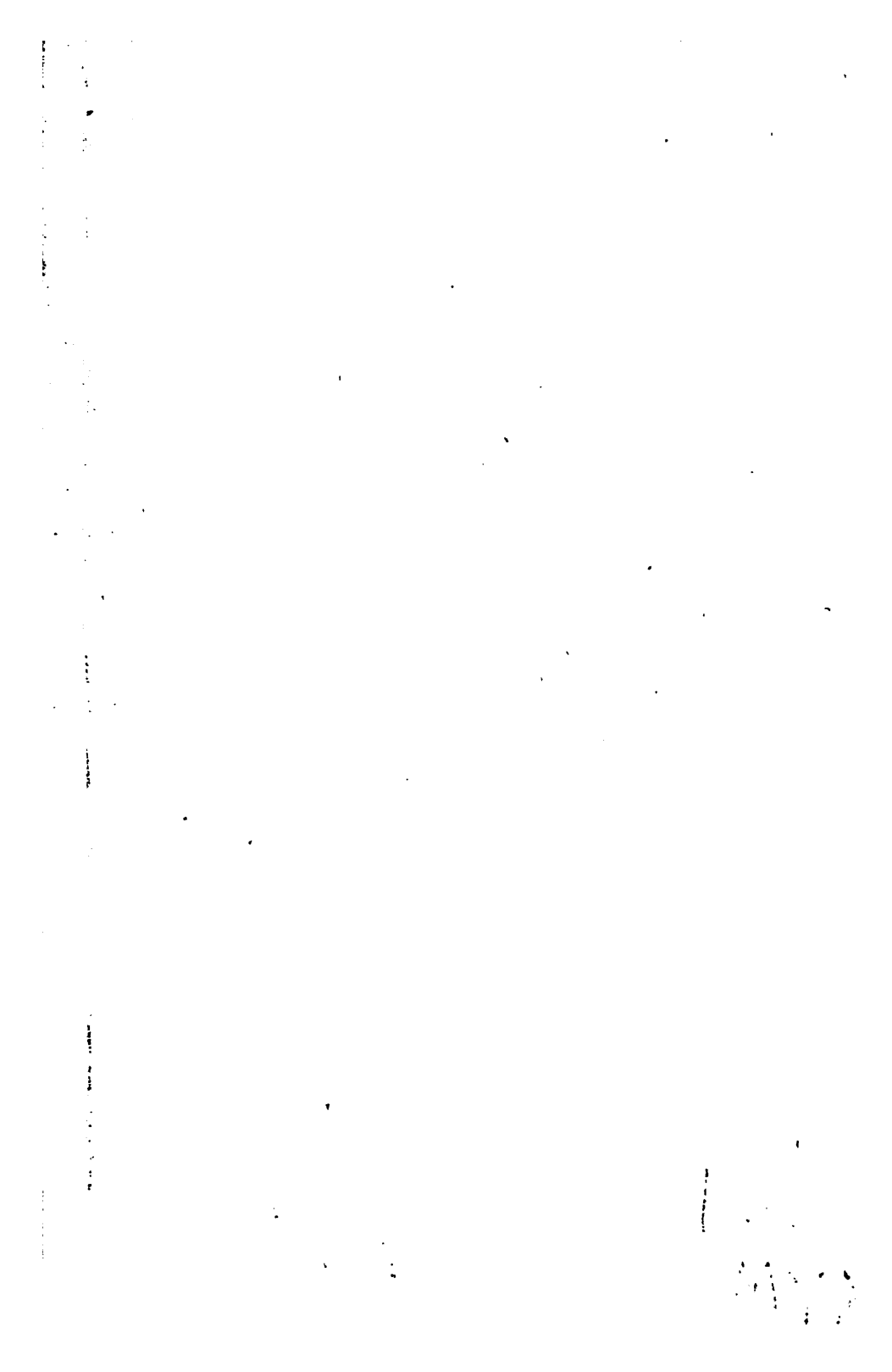
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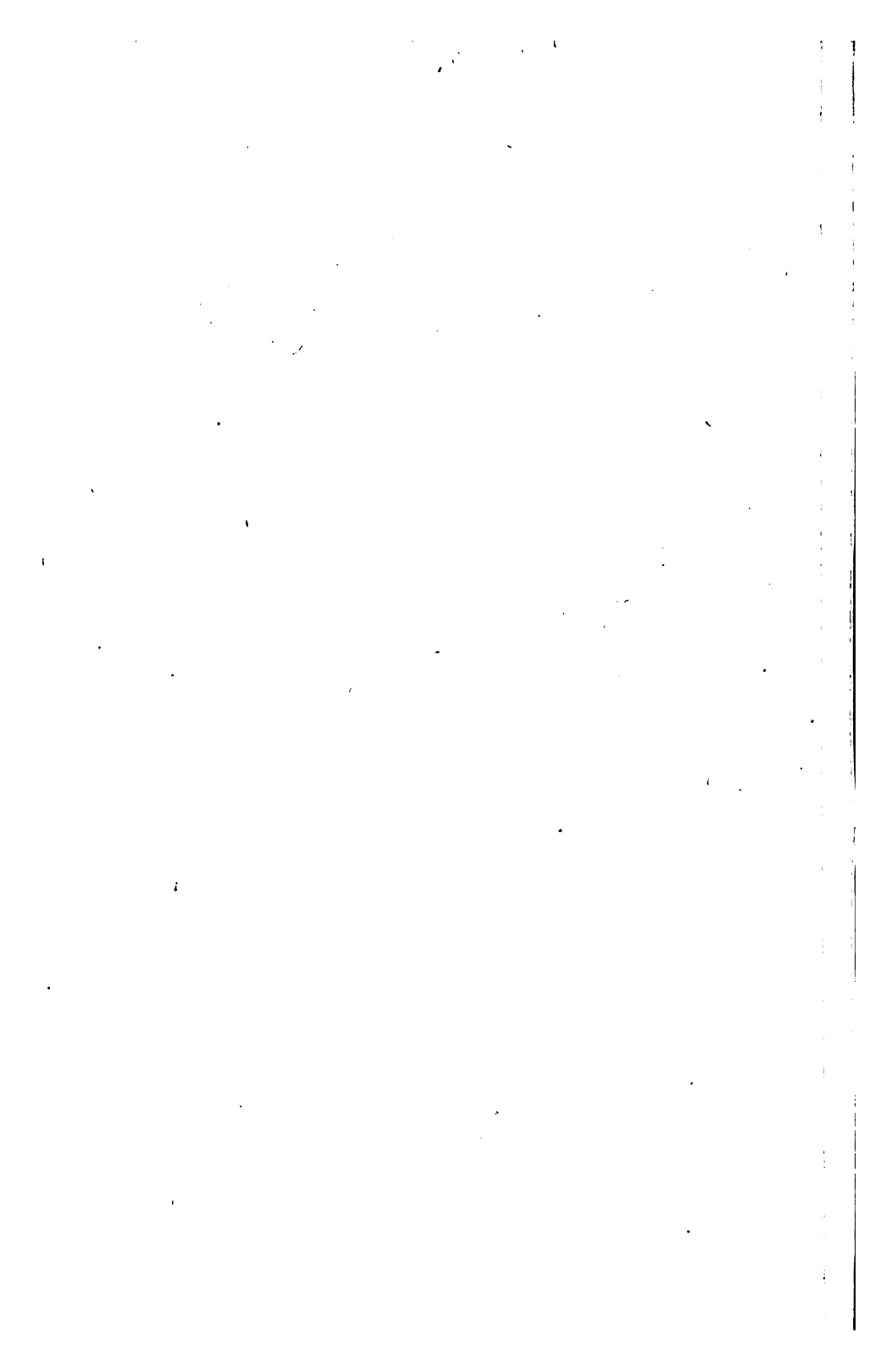
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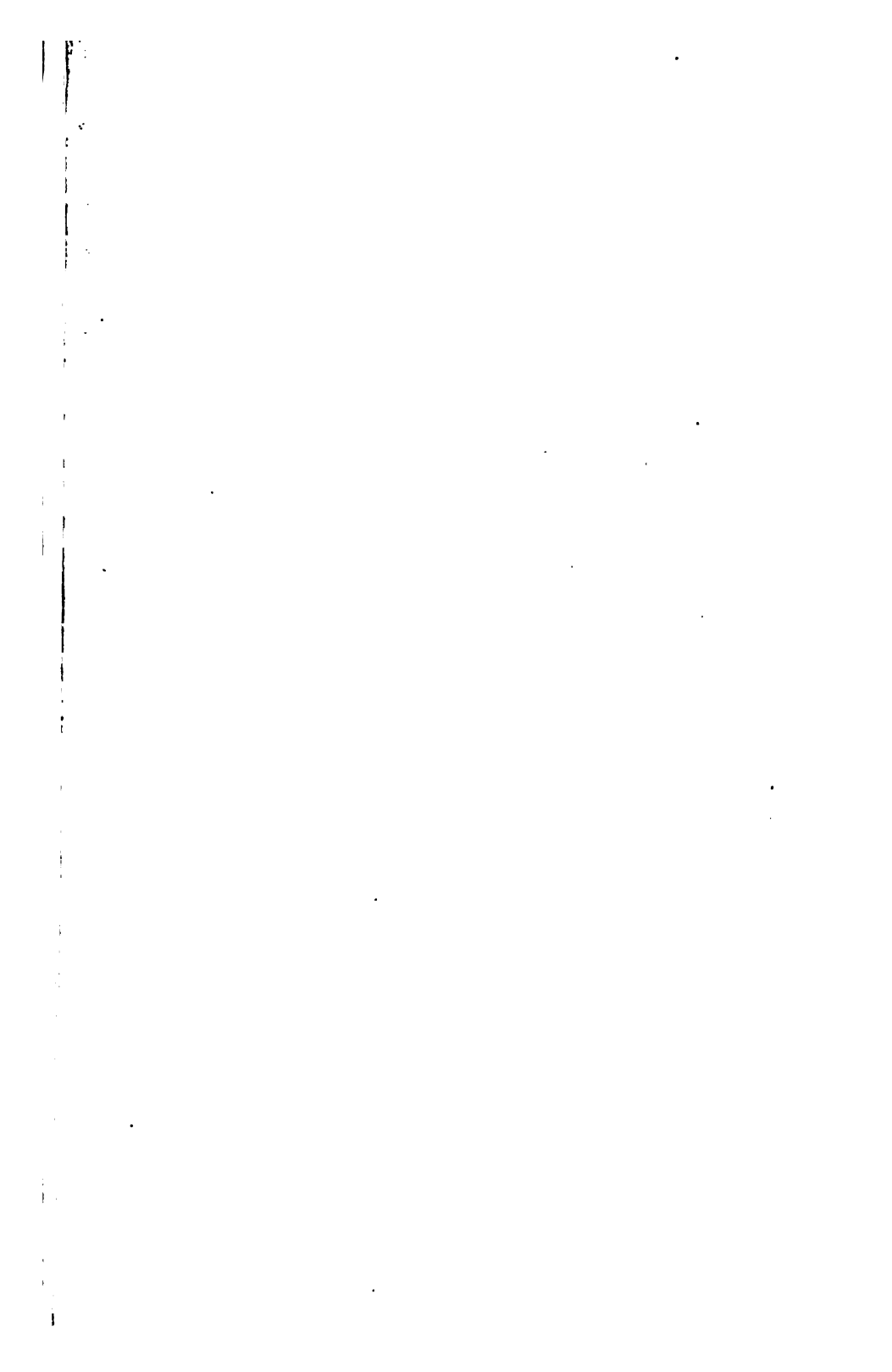
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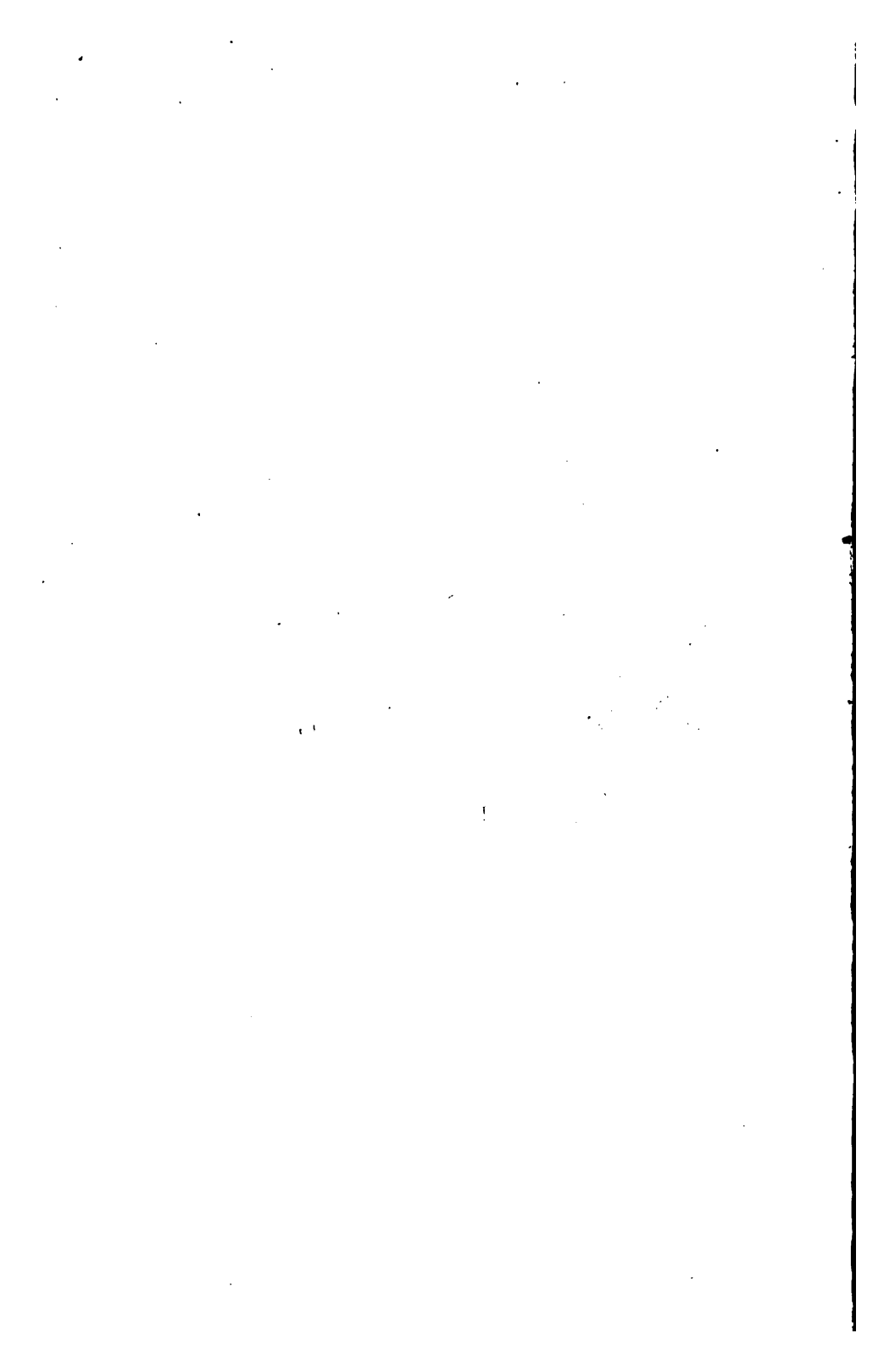
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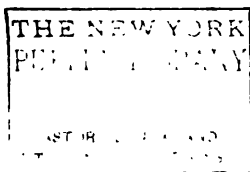
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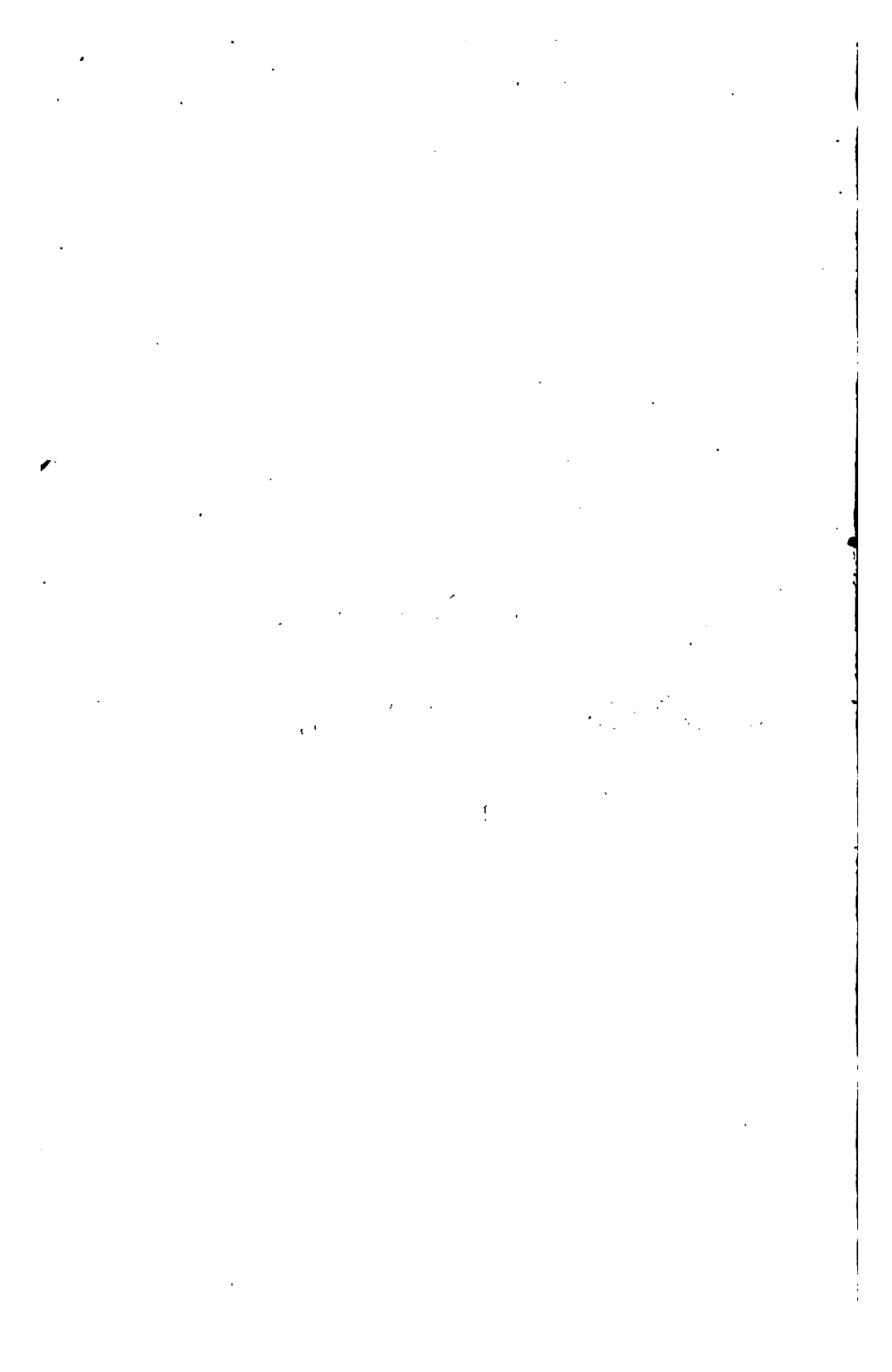
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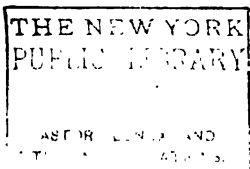


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Apina Wani

A
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION
OF THE
MODERN DOGS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

SPORTING DIVISION: VOL. II.

(A NEW EDITION.)

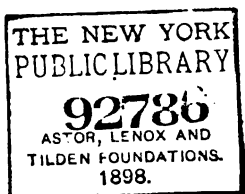
BY
RAWDON B. LEE,
KENNEL EDITOR OF "THE FIELD," AUTHOR OF THE HISTORIES OF
"THE FOX TERRIER," "THE COLLIE," ETC.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARTHUR WARDLE.

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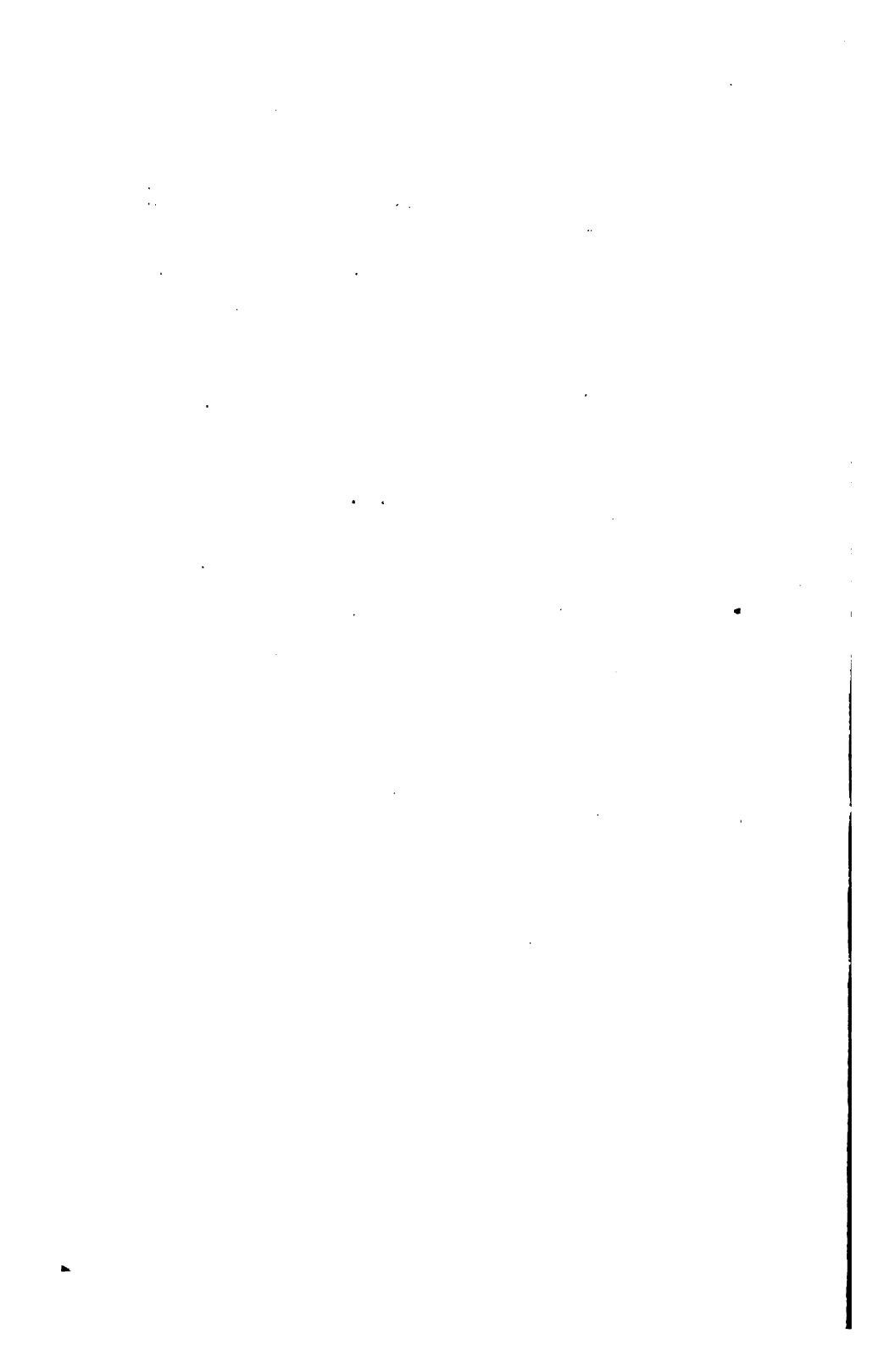
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CHAPTER I.

THE POINTER.

ALTHOUGH the Pointer is of comparatively recent introduction into this country—comparatively alongside his fellow worker the setter—no animal is more popular with the shooter. Originally said to come from Spain, a country to which we are indebted for other dogs, Sydenham Edwards, writing in 1805, says it was first introduced by a merchant trading with Portugal, at a very modern period, and was then used by an old “reduced baron,” named Bechill, who lived in Norfolk, and “who could shoot flying.” The same writer eulogises this Spanish pointer, and so good a dog was he, and required so little training that there was quite a chance of his putting the nose of the “setting spaniel” out of joint altogether. “Shooting flying” was practised prior to 1717 (although most probably not very much in vogue until some time later), for in that year Mr. Markland published “Pteryplegia, or the Art of Shooting Flying,” an interesting and

popular little poem which went through at least four editions up to 1767 inclusive. It certainly deserved popularity for the knowledge the author evidently possessed of his subject must have been simply marvellous, the period at which the work was written being taken into consideration. It may be taken that the Pointer was introduced to England early in the eighteenth century as the most likely dog to use under the new system.

Very likely France had pointers earlier than this. One of our modern writers falls into a curious error with regard to a picture by Francis Desportes. The artist depicts two dogs, which the author says are examples of the "early foxhound and pointer cross in France," of the date about 1701. As a fact, the picture is a portrait of two favourite hounds from the pack of Louis XV., Pompée and Floressant, and was painted in 1739. There is no mistaking the hound character of these dogs, and they display no trace, so far as I can make out, of any pointer appearance whatever. The pheasant and two other birds in the background are merely accessories to the picture, and are not put there to indicate that the dogs below them are of a feathered game finding variety. However, there is extant another drawing by the same artist, of a pointer and two setters, with partridges in front of them, the smooth-coated dog

being quite of modern type, though he has his stern shortened.

By the means of that fine old picture, "The Spanish Pointer," by Stubbs, and which was engraved by Woollett in 1768, we know what kind of a dog it was: liver and white in colour, heavily and massively made, big of head, double nosed, strong loined, shortened stern; a cumbrous dog, steady enough, no doubt, but as unlike our modern pointer as a Suffolk punch is unlike a thoroughbred race-horse. To one of the London dog shows, I think it was in 1891, Sir Walter Gilbey, of Elsenham Hall, Norfolk, sent up a brace of Spanish pointers. These were short, thick set, small dogs, fawn, rather than lemon, and white in colour, double-nosed, with short stumpy heads—very ugly animals indeed, and, however staunch and steady they might be on game, they would certainly be sadly deficient in pace, and of no use in competition against the high rangers we at present own. Nor could these Spanish pointers of Sir Walter Gilbey's compare with the one Stubbs over a hundred years before, had given us upon canvas. As a fact, they were short and thick enough in head, and sufficiently heavy in under jaw to give indications of a bulldog cross. Still, they were pure bred animals so far as they went.

Good as the old Spanish pointer had been, our

English sportsmen required something better. The old strain tired much, and became slow at the end of a day's heavy work; and it lacked perseverance generally. So, it was said, a cross was resorted to. History tells us this was found with the foxhound, and that the much quoted sportsman, Colonel Thornton, of Yorkshire, was the first man to bring the improved dog prominently to the notice of the public. This might be so or not, we fancy not; for, about the same period, pointers, far removed from the imported Spanish dog in appearance, were not at all uncommon in England, and they could easily have been brought over from France. In any case, if Colonel Thornton was not actually the maker of the modern English pointer, he had the credit of being so, and, sportsman though he was, contrived to get big prices for some of his dogs, and obtain a reputation for them as being the best in England.

It was said, that two bred by him, Pluto and Juno, remained on point during the whole of the time Sidney Gilpin, the animal painter, was taking a sketch for their portraits, and this occupied about an hour and a quarter. This was not, however, a sufficiently extraordinary feat for his dogs, one of which, the gallant Colonel stated, had stood on point for five hours at a stretch, and was even then loth to

move in and spring the game ! Such a story as the latter does not require much further exaggeration to suggest others, like that dog frozen to death whilst on point ; or its cousin, where a sportsman lost his dog (it was not on an Irish mountain), and on going over the same ground twelve months later found the skeleton of his old favourite still standing with one foot raised and on point, whilst six yards away lay the bones of two brace and a half of partridges, the feathers of the birds having long before been blown to the four winds of the heavens. Surely, then, there are grounds for the truth of the north country expression, " Shutters is leears," although this may be qualified by the usual addendum " but fishers, by gum ! "

The jovial Colonel is supposed to have had an Eclipse of pointers in his dog called Dash, the produce of a foxhound and a Spanish pointer. Dash could beat all other dogs, he never omitted to find birds in front of him, and his extraordinary intuition enabled him to do this without quartering his ground as other dogs did. Moreover, Dash was perfectly steady and staunch behind in backing other dogs. We are not told how so unusual an animal could so far be outstripped by some sorry quarterer of his ground as to be so far behind in position as to be required to back. The fact of the matter is, that

these extraordinarily fast dogs are never good backers, because they have not the opportunity of being made so; and they can scarcely be perfection as such naturally and without some training. Dash sustained his reputation to the end, for he was sold by his breeder to Sir Richard Symons for champagne and burgundy to the value of £160, a hogshead of claret, "an elegant gun," and another dog. There was a proviso that should accident befall this canine wonder he must be returned to his former owner for fifty guineas. This was brought about by the immaculate Dash breaking one of his legs.

At the close of the past century, and about the beginning of the present one, the pointers were pretty similar in colour to what they are now—brown, or liver and white, lemon and orange and white; some heavily flecked or ticked with these colours on a white ground; others black; and no doubt there would be pure browns or livers, as there are occasionally to-day, though we do not read of them. Sometimes we see pointers with white ticks or flecks on a brown ground, and they, though odd, are by no means unsightly. About ninety years ago the Earl of Lauderdale had a strain of very small pointers that would be little more than 30lb. in weight; they bore a reputation for excelling in their work, but were generally considered too diminutive

to be so useful as the bigger dogs as we have them now. They were, however, a novelty, and likely enough might be introduced from France, where, about that time, a small and lightly made pointer was quite common.

Earlier than this, the Duke of Kingston owned a celebrated strain of black pointers ; but they, not being so easy to see when in work as a white dog or one nearly white, the colour never became popular. Still, a superstition remains to this day, in some parts of the country, that the black pointers are the best to kill game over, "because such have the better noses and the more stamina, and birds lie better to a black dog than to a white one." The latter idea prevails in a somewhat similar way as to wild animals—foxes, otters, &c.—bolting better to a white terrier than to a coloured one ; but whether there is anything in such a statement I cannot give an opinion, though my experience is by no means a small one in the matter of foxes and otters.

Before entering on to the show period of the pointer and the introduction of field trial competitions, he was, no doubt, more used to the gun than he has been since. Shooting surroundings have been much changed during the past thirty or forty years. Battues and artificial breeding of game have been

introduced on a large scale; improved agriculture and general cultivation have further altered matters; so have the close cropping of the land, the use of machines for mowing and reaping, and increased drainage. Under the old system the stubbles remained as high as a pair of shooting boots, the after grass required dogs to work it, rents were lower, and the farmer could afford to have a "rushy pasture" or two on his land, which, being ill-drained, grew coarse "bent" grass, affording lovely shelter for the birds. I am writing of inland shooting now, and not of the moors. One thing with another and the old system is changed. On some of the best partridge land in England, and so in the world, birds are not usually killed over dogs; they are either walked up by the shooters moving on in a row, with retrievers behind them, or driven where the sportsmen take their stands, or their seats, and wait until accumulated coveys of partridges fly within gunshot.

Still, the old style is the better, and nothing prettier in the way of sport is there than walking behind a brace of well-trained pointers, either through turnips or over rough land, and killing your birds as your dogs find them, first one dog and then the other, quartering right and left, crossing correctly, and backing as occasion requires. To kill driven birds may require a smart shot; to kill them when

walking in a line may require nerve and steadiness ; but to kill them over dogs, you acquire some knowledge of the habits of the game you are after, and, moreover, are proud in the possession of a brace of animals which, without prejudice, you may believe to be the best in the universe.

All things in this world pretty much find their level ; maybe, had such not been the case, the race of the pointer would have died out when he came to be so little used, through what some are pleased to call "modern improvements in the way of sport." But the introduction of dog shows gave him a fillip, and the establishment of field trials raised his social status higher than ever. When the great Daniel Lambert—great in more ways than in obesity—had a noted strain of black pointers about 1840, he was contented to give a puppy away to a friend, or to sell one for a matter of five pounds, or even less, and little more could he obtain for a fully grown dog. No one disputed the excellence of his kennel, yet, at its dispersal on his death, six brace and a half of pointers realised but 256 guineas, the highest figure, 46 guineas, being obtained for lot 13, a dog called Bang, and said to be very good in the field. Swap and Snake, unbroken, from one of Webbe Edge's bitches called Bloom, who had been sold for 80 guineas at the Edge sale, realised 25 guineas

each. The three latter not at all bad prices, when the period and other matters are taken into consideration.

Even so long ago as this, the Earl of Derby, at Knowsley, had, and was obtaining, a kennel of good pointers; at Edenhall, in Cumberland, the Musgraves had some excellent dogs; so had Lord Mexborough, the late Marquis of Westminster, Lord Lichfield, Lord Henry Bentinck, Sir E. Antrobus, and last, but by no means least, Mr. Webbe Edge, of Stretley Hall, Nottingham.

Some of the oldest of our modern kennels have their foundation from the stock purchased at the Edge sale in 1845, and Mr. Thomas Statter, of Stand Hall, near Manchester, whose death occurred in 1891, was there, and bought a brace of dogs that did him great good in the future. The late Prince Consort was likewise a purchaser at the same sale, and so were the Duke of Portland, who obtained Rake, and others; and Mr. George Moore, of Appleby, Lincolnshire, who for a time had a kennel of pointers as good as any man in the country possessed. Then, just prior to this period, Mr. Osbaldeston and Mr. Meynell, so great with foxhounds, had spent considerable time and expense in improving the pointer, but it may be said that their blood, with that of the Squire of Thornville Royal,

all lapsed into the Knowsley and the Edge strains, and from these to others, such as the few dogs that Lang, the Cockspur Street gunmaker, sold for such high prices, Mr. Comberbach's, and Mr. Statham's, of Derby.

The Edge strain appears to have been pretty well distinct from the others, and has proved of infinite benefit to the admirers of the pointer who followed him. His were medium-sized but particularly elegantly moulded dogs, dark liver and white in colour, with more than a tendency to a golden or bronze shading on the cheeks. They carried their heads well in the field, and in work were quite equal to what they were in appearance.

More modern kennels were those of Sir R. Garth, Q.C., and Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, Ipsley Court, Redditch; and the latter must be taken as the connecting link between the present generation and the past one.

Mr. W. Brailsford who now, in 1897, is still strong and hearty, and was able to attend and enjoy the Birmingham show the previous year, informs me that, between 1830 and 1840 or so, the best pointers were certainly to be found in the Midlands. In addition to the kennels already named, Mr. Gell, Hopton Hall, Wirksworth, had a choice lot of dogs. Mr. Statham, of Derby, alluded to before,

owned a good-looking, double-nosed strain of the Spanish type; and perhaps his other pointers contained more crosses with those from Mr. Moore, of Appleby Hall, than any other kennel. The double-nosed variety soon died out.

Mr. Martin, at the Laxton kennels, had mostly black and white dogs, still there were some lemon and white amongst them. Mr. Edge had given his sole attention to the liver and white, and no doubt to him their popularity at the present day is attributable. Lord Chesterfield, at Gedling, whose kennel was under the charge of the father of my informant, also had some black and whites of great excellence.

Mr. Brailsford further says that two of the best dogs in the Edge kennels in 1841-2 were Rake and Romp, but the latter, having tan shadings on his liver-marked cheeks, was not much used for breeding purposes. Thus, even so far back as half a century ago, a purely fancy point was not sneered at by even the greatest of breeders. The Edge strain was in the first instance obtained by judicious crossing with dogs and bitches obtained from Captain White, Mr. Hurts, of Alderwasley, Mr. Mundy, Mr. G. Moore, Mr. Statham, Sir R. Goodrich, and others. All colours but liver and white were rigorously excluded, and the leading feature of the Edge strain lay in its

general uniformity. The best specimens only were saved ; the kennels were never overcrowded, and no more dogs than could be used and properly trained for the owner's own requirements were kept. The latter an excellent arrangement which does not, however, find favour now ; and I fancy that already the market is well nigh glutted with pointers and setters, as recent sales at Aldridge's and elsewhere prove.

Mr. Garth's dogs were disposed of by auction at the Lillie Bridge running grounds, West Brompton, London, in June, 1874, when eight brace of pointers realised 490 guineas. It may be noted that the plums of this sale were obtained by Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Rhiwlas, and by Mr. G. Pilkington, of Widnes ; and no doubt the celebrity both these kennels obtained later on, was, in a great degree, owing to the discriminating purchases made at Mr. Garth's. Mr. Price took away four brace and Mr. Pilkington one brace, the latter giving 67 guineas and 55 guineas respectively for Major, by Drake—Mite, and for Doll, by Major—Jill. Mr. Price's lots cost him more money, and £150 for the grand pointer Drake, then seven years old, was the sum the Welsh squire gave, and it was a high one for so old a dog.

The Earl of Sefton sold his pointers the same week, but the prices realised were not noteworthy.

The first Field Trial meeting ever held took place over Sir S. Whitbread's Bedfordshire estate at Southill, April, 1865, and at which "Idstone" (the Rev. T. Pearce, of Blandford), and Mr. John Walker, of Halifax, were the judges—both, unfortunately, deceased. The day was by no means favourable for good work, being hot and windless; notwithstanding this, judging from the points awarded to the dogs, many of them were of the highest class. Two, Mr. R. Garth's Jill and Mr. Fleming's Dandy, made the highest number of points possible; whilst Mr. Brockton's Bounce, Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet, and Mr. J. A. Handy's Moll had 90 points given them out of a possible hundred. In thus casually alluding to the maximum of points obtained in a working trial by a pointer it would be an omission not to mention Mr. Lloyd Price's handsome bitch Belle, who at the Vaynol trials in 1872 made the perfect score of 100, though in the champion plate she was beaten by Mr. Purcell Llewellyn's English setter Countess.

Our modern winners do not appear to have quite reached such high figures of merit, and, as a comparison, I will give the number of points awarded at the Pointer Club Trials, which took place over Lord Kenyon's estate near Wrexham in 1889. Here the maximum to be obtained was 100; and Mr.

F. Lowe's Belle des Bordes was given 98; Mr. Heywood Lonsdale's Crab, 96; Mr. C. H. Beck's Quits Baby, 94; and Mr. Lloyd Price's Miss Sixpence 88, all competitors in the all-aged stake. The puppies did not do so well, and the maximums reached were 66 and 57 by Mr. Beck's Pax of Upton and his Quail of Upton, and 62 by the late Mr. T. Statter's Toil. This was the last occasion in this country upon which a field trial was judged by points.

The disparity in the above numerals, we should say, lies more in the method and in the opinion of the judges rather than in the fact that the modern pointer is inferior in his work to that of a quarter of a century ago. As a matter of fact, nowadays the work got out of the properly trained dogs should be of a far higher class than was formerly the case, for the largest owners of field trial dogs have special men to look after and train them, breaking them in the first instance for public work alone, though after their advent as puppies they are well able to do their duty amongst the grouse on the moors and the partridge in the more cultivated land.

So successful was the initial Field Trial meeting that others followed, and so they have been continued, and exist at the present day. Some writers have endeavoured to make a distinction between the work

done by the liver and white dogs and by those lemon and white, one advocating the one colour and others the other. But let me say colour has nothing whatever to do with the work of a dog. Both have originally come from the same strains, and, given equal opportunities, will be equally good. My field trial and shooting experiences over dogs have been long continued without any material cessation, and during this period I have seen good and bad of all colours, excepting, perhaps, I have never seen a really good field trial performer a whole brown. Blacks I have seen, and black and whites too, good enough for anyone. Perhaps the best of all was the black dog Tap, belonging to Mr. W. Arkwright, of Sutton Scarsdale. Commencing as a puppy in 1892, he ran with great success every year, his last being so recently as July, 1896, when he very nearly won the principal stake at the International Field Trials at Bala, one slight mistake right at the end spoiling his record. He had drawn up on point when a young grouse, a "chiper," fluttered up above the heather right under his nose, a temptation which was too much for the old dog, who went in and gave the little bird a nip. Tap is as good in private as in public, and is an untiring worker. Tap's dam was a lemon and white bitch.

Mr. Arkwright, who has given considerable atten-

tion to black and white pointers, showed a handsome bitch of that colour called Barmaid, and she, at the Kennel Club Show and at Birmingham, in 1896, took the highest honours, winning the championship on one occasion, and pretty nearly doing the same thing on the other. At Birmingham another good black pointer was shown, and won a second prize, Mr. J. Graham's (Middlesbro'-on-Tees) Jester, whose dam is unknown. Another, called Nigger, that Mr. Herbert Brown owned some years ago, which came from a strain Mr. J. H. Salter had in his kennels, and valued highly, was quite first-class and very smart. Then in 1894 a black and white pointer puppy came over from France, M. Puissant's Fly des Bordes, to run at the National Field Trials at Shrewsbury, at which meeting she ran right through the stake almost unchallenged. Sir Watkin Wynn has some black and white pointers at Wynnstay, which are, in fact, his own strain and of Mr. Arkwrights', and generally just now there appear to be more black and black and white pointers appearing both in the field and show bench than has been the case for some years.

Of some of the chief pointers at the earlier trials, "Stonehenge," in his "Dogs of the British Isles," says :

“ Among the liver and whites, the celebrated Drake, bred by Sir R. Garth and sold by him for £150 in his seventh season to Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Bala, was an example of speed and endurance. This dog was, in his day, the fastest and most wonderful animal that ever quartered a field, and his race up to a brace of birds at Shrewsbury in the field trials of 1868, when the ground was so dry as to cause a cloud of dust to rise on his dropping to their scent, was a sight which will probably never be seen again. He was truly a phenomenon among pointers. His extraordinary pace compelled his dropping in this way, for otherwise he could not have stopped himself in time, but when he had lost more of his pace he began frequently to stand up.

“A very beautiful and racing bitch was Mr. Lloyd Price's Belle, bred by Lord H. Bentinck, and bought by Mr. Price for £10 after winning a third prize at Manchester. She was at first fearfully headstrong, and chased hares for many weeks persistently, being far beyond her puppyhood and unbroken; but the perseverance of a young, and till then unknown, breaker, Anstey, overcame these defects, and being tried in private to be good, she was entered at Vaynol field trials in 1872, when she won the prize for braces, and also that for bitches, being left in to contest the disputed point of priority in the two

breeds with Mr. Whitehouse's Priam against Mr. Llewellyn's Countess and Nellie, both setters. In this trial she succumbed to Countess, but turned the tables on her at Bala in 1873. Being possessed of this beautiful and excellent bitch, Mr. Lloyd Price naturally desired to match her, and so Drake, as already mentioned, was purchased. Previously, however, Drake had got several dogs of high class, including Viscount Downe's Bang, Drake II., and Mars ; but, considering the run he had at the stud, his stock could not be said to have come out as well as might be expected in public, though in private their character was well maintained. Crossed with Belle, a litter considerably above the average was obtained, including Mallard and Beau, but none coming up to the form of either sire or dam, and not equal to Eos, who was subsequently from her by Mr. William Statter's Major. Mr. Statter had also bred Dick, successful at Bala and Ipswich, from a daughter of Drake by his Major, who was descended from the good, old-fashioned strains of Lord Derby, Mr. Antrobus, and Mr. Edge. Major was a fast, resolute dog, and ranged in beautiful style ; but he behaved very badly at Bala in 1867 (his only public appearance), having just returned from the moors, and not owning the partridge scent, as is often the case with even the steadiest grouse dogs.

"It should be remembered that in these days fast pace is demanded far more than in those when pointers were used in the south for beating high stubbles in fields of 20 acres or less, and when the heavy breeds of Mr. Edge, Lord Derby, and Mr. Antrobus were able to do all that was desired, delicacy of nose, and steadiness both before and behind, being the chief essentials required. By careful selection, and some luck, Sir R. Garth was able to breed Drake, and Lord H. Bentinck also obtained Belle, while Mr. Statter has been little behind them with his Major, Dick, and Rex. In the south, Mr. S. Price has produced his Bang, Mike, and Wagg, the first not quite up to the pace of the above dogs, but closely approaching it. He is descended from Brockton's Bounce, one of the old heavy sort, who, however, showed fair pace at Southill in 1865, but crossed with the lemon and white strain of Mr. Whitehouse, which I must now proceed to describe. Mr. Lloyd Price added Wagg to his kennel for stud purposes, and in the year 1877 obtained a very fast and clever puppy from Devonshire, viz., Bow Bells, by Bang out of Leech's Belle; Mr. Whitehouse's Rapid was another Devonshire-bred dog of recent celebrity, being by Clang out of Romp.

"Up to the time of the institution of dog shows,

the lemon and whites were little valued in comparison with the liver and whites; but Mr. H. Gilbert's Bob and Major (the latter sold to Mr. Smith, of Tettenthal, on Mr. Gilbert's death in 1862), brought the lemon and whites into notice on the show bench; while a son of Bob, Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet, already alluded to, took 90 points out of a possible 100 at the Bedford trials. Mr. Whitehouse's Hamlet also took several prizes in the ring, and his stock have quite superseded that of Major, which, handsome as they are admitted to be, have not shown much capacity for the work demanded from them in the field. Mr. Whitehouse has bred from this dog Priam, Rap, Joke, Flirt, and Nina, all winners; besides Macgregor, who is by Sancho out of a granddaughter of Hamlet. From these successes in the twofold direction of beauty and goodness in the field, Hamlet was in high fashion until the appearance of Sir R. Garth's Drake, since which the contest between the stock of those two dogs has been maintained with varying results, there being little difference in the number of wins between Viscount Downe's Bang II., Mars, Grace II., and Drake II., together with Mr. Lloyd Price's Mallard and Beau, and Mr. Statter's Dick; and on the other hand, Mr. Whitehouse's Priam, Rap, Pax, Nora, and Blanche. Besides these may be mentioned Mr. Brackenbury's

Romp and her produce by Chang, Mr. Whitehouse's Rapid, and Mr. Fairhead's Romp."

I have made this quotation as some proof of what I had written as to there being nothing in the colour of a pointer that would indicate either pace, staunchness, or stamina, and Mr. Whitehouse, by sticking consistently to the orange or lemon and whites, has convinced most people that the dogs of this colour are as hardy as those of any other. His Hamlet and Rap never had their superiors, and though Mr. Whitehouse does not give so much time to his pointers as formerly, he has been the means of popularising the "lemons and whites" in such a fashion that they are not likely to die out. Northwards, the county of Durham seems to have obtained a strong strain of this colour, and at the Darlington shows, held annually at the end of July, a capital display of them is usually seen, indeed, nearly all the shooting men in that locality have had at one time or another, and still have, lemon and white pointers in their kennels.

There was that good dog Don IX., and several others with which Mr. Ridley (Ferryhill, Durham), was so successful. The Peases, too, had them, and this kennel included some of the smartest small-sized dogs I ever saw. The dam of the writer's old bitch, Miss Prim, who did a good deal of winning in

her time, and was as good as anything else in the field, was from the Durham side—a remarkably handsome bitch, spoiled by being wide in front, but this was due to the accident of bad rearing, and was not constitutional. The late Mr. G. Maw, of Bishop Auckland, had an extra good lemon and white in Peg, fast and good, and who was, unfortunately, run over and killed by a train earlier on that fatal day when her owner received injuries that resulted in his death. The exceedingly smart but rather small Wolsingham Bob was also of a Durham strain, as are Mr. W. Arkwright's Aldine Fluke and Belle Chance, bred by Mr. C. Drury, and equal to winning at our big shows when hard on ten years old.

The peculiar character of the pointer may be proved by the example of Mr. Maw's bitch Peg, and there is no doubt that, when roused, the pointer is far more determined than the setter, and can better hold his own in fight than the longer-coated dog. When Peg was quite a puppy, it was her misfortune to be run over by one of those cyclists who in their road races become such a nuisance, and so bring discredit upon a useful and healthy pastime. The bitch was not much hurt, but she bore bicycles a grudge ever after, and unless her owner had her hard at his heels when a "machine" approached, Peg went for it with a vengeance, and never failed to upset the

luckless rider, often to his injury, and, on more than one occasion, to the cost of her owner. It was strange that this bitch, so well trained and broken on game, staunch and obedient to perfection, should be quite oblivious to, and heedless of, her owner's whistle and voice when the ring of the cycle bell was heard, or the machine itself loomed in the distance.

Whilst on these lemon and white or orange and white pointers, it may be as well to mention another strain, though this was more successful on the bench than in the field. This belonged to Mr. C. W. Brierley, then living near Manchester, but who has left his favourite dogs for the newer love of "pedigree" shorthorns. Then pretty well on to twenty years ago, Mr. C. H. Mason, Yorkshire, was showing and winning with a number of good dogs, but when he went to the United States, where he is now one of the leading authorities on canine matters, his kennels were dispersed.

Of late years Devonshire has become the favourite county in England for its strains of pointers, most of which are liver and white in colour, though occasionally those of the lemon and white crop up. As to these Devonshire pointers, Mr. E. C. Norrish, so well and favourably known in connection therewith, kindly contributes the following, excepting where his own kennel is mentioned :

"No other country can lay claim to older pointer blood than that which is found in Devonshire. If we carefully go through the pedigrees of the field trial performers and bench winners of the present day, whether in our own country or in America, we shall almost invariably find that those which take premier honours can trace back to the old Devon sort. Long before dog shows and field trials became fashionable, Devon pointers were distinguished for their high quality, for their total freedom from anything approaching the hound cross, and for their natural working characteristics, such as staunchness on point, range, and readiness to back.

"Probably the variety of work which this county affords has something to do with the stoutness and symmetry which were always reckoned essential to good breeding by our old sportsmen. Steep hills, often covered with stone and rock, and deep and holding moorland, render muscle and lifting power, good legs and feet, a necessity, consequently we find these points kept in the foreground, and handed down to us almost as heirlooms of the breed. Would that the same care and judgment had been taken with the brisk little Devon spaniel, whose qualities were as defined and distinct as those of the pointer, but whose symmetry of late years has been sacrificed

to fashion, which has rendered him less able to work thick covert and thorny hedgerow.

"Whether dog shows are in any way responsible for the deterioration of this useful breed, it is not my intention to inquire; I will, however, confidently assert that to dog shows and field trials we owe much of the all-round improvement so perceptible in the breed of pointers generally, and those of Devonshire in particular. The opportunities which these meetings afford of discussing the merits and characteristics of the different strains, is of incalculable value to breeders, and frequently lead to the interchange of blood, which above all else is so necessary for the keeping up of stamina and keen working qualities.

"One of our earlier Devon breeders, who recognised the wisdom of an infusion of fresh blood, was Mr. W. Francis, of Exeter—a thorough sportsman, whose kennels were never without the right sort for hard work—his frequent companion in the field was the late Mr. Samuel Price, of Bow. It is hardly to be wondered at that two such enthusiasts working together, were successful in maintaining the reputation of their kennels. At that time dog shows were in their infancy; however, that good authority the Rev. T. Pearce ("Idstone"), while on a visit to Devonshire, had spoken so highly of the working

characteristics and general good qualities of the liver and white Bounce—a well known prize winner, owned by Mr. Brockton, of Farndon—that Mr. Francis and Mr. Price quickly decided on breeding from him. For this purpose they selected one of their best bitches, named Belle, whose dam Dido was bred near Newton Abbot, and was by Sancho, whose sire, Mentor, came from South Molton. This union of Francis's Belle with Brockton's Bounce gave us the sensational litter—Sancho, the black and white Chang, the bitch Vesta, and Random. So grand a team quickly gained for themselves a reputation on the bench, and we find Sancho and Chang amongst the prize winners at Birmingham and other important shows of that period, while Vesta, judged by "Idstone," at Barnstaple and other local shows, usually won with ease.

"As a matter of course, their blood was greatly sought after, especially by neighbouring kennels, and wherever it found its way it proved successful. For example, Sancho, bred to his niece Sappho, produced that nearly perfect specimen of a pointer, Wagg, which was so successfully shown by Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, of Bala, and, bred to the late Mr. R. P. Leach's Fan—whose ancestors were from the North of Devon—produced Leach's Belle, probably the most successful brood bitch of that day. Amongst

her numerous offspring were the Champions Bang II. and Bow Bells, Bonus Sancho, Merry Bells, Belle of the Ball, and Grant's Maggie, all of which were sired by Price's Bang. We shall find Chang best represented by his union with Romp, a small, compactly made bitch, owned by the late Mr. Brackenbury, of Exeter; her performances in the field were of the highest order, and her excellence as a worker was transmitted to her progeny. From these Mr. J. H. Salter's well known black and whites, alluded to later on, are descended.

"Besides being the dam of Mr. Sam Price's world-renowned Bang, Vesta's name is brought down to us through her daughter Sappho, dam of Wagg, already named, and Pearl, dam of Mr. E. C. Norrish's lemon and white Beryl, a famous bench winner at Birmingham and elsewhere, from whom again spring Mr. Norrish's Revel III. and his Saddleback, that quite recently were almost invincible in the show way. For size, substance, and quality combined, Vesta would doubtless compare favourably with any bitch of the present day, and it has always appeared to me a regretful circumstance that Mr. Price allowed her to leave this country at so early a period in her career. From her the most conspicuous representatives of the Bow kennels are descended, amongst them being the above-mentioned Bang, who, with

his son Mike, won for Mr. Price the Cloverly Stakes at Shrewsbury three years in succession; Belle of Bow, Lad of Bow, Lass of Bow, Mealy, Bang's Boy, and Climax. The two latter were his favourites in the field, and it will be remembered that he had the brace actually in his hands at the time of his lamentably sudden death, the evening before the 1st September, 1887.

"Random, the last of the team named above, mated with Mr. Huggins's Juno, gave us the typical Don Juan, sire of the well-known champions Ponto and Fan, from which Mr. Beck's celebrated Naso of Upton is descended on his dam's side, and of Fursdon Juno, dam of Graphic, another of Mr. Norrish's well-known dogs, and now in America. It is unnecessary here to follow the successful careers of Devon bred pointers in other countries, their good deeds would fill a volume.

"Returning again to the progeny of Old Bang and Leach's Belle, Mr. Bulled, of Witheridge, was fortunate in securing one of these, viz., Belle of the Ball. Not only did she bring his name to the fore as a prize winner, but she enabled him to hold his own in the strongest competition. One of the earliest of her progeny was Sambo the Devil, who from the time of his *début* at Margate in 1879, scored prize after prize, which quickly ran him into

champion honours. Amongst other good ones which the Witheridge kennel bred from Belle of the Ball was the field-trial performer, Lass of Devon, who was by Mr. Stranger's Don of Devon, and Devon Noble. More recently Mr. Bulled has been successfully breeding from the Village Star, a daughter of Devon Jack—Bell Bona, litter sister to Bonus Sancho. From her came his present day field trial and bench winners Devonshire Nero, Devonshire Sall, and Devonshire Lady."

However, the most successful of all Devonshire kennels, especially on the show bench, is that of Mr. E. C. Norrish, of Gay's House, Copplestone. Nor has Mr. Norrish restricted himself to the ordinary dogs of the ring, he having latterly made entries at the Field Trials, where animals trained by himself have, as a rule, performed more than fairly, though not always quite so successfully as might be wished. There is no doubt that for some years back the pointers of Mr. Norrish have obtained great celebrity and become almost pre-eminent in maintaining the prestige of the West country strain. Such good animals as Graphic, Saddleback, Vesper, Saddleback II., Revel, Beryl, Sandford Reveller, Truebill, without others that could be named, and equally first class, are quite sufficient to gain a reputation for any kennel.

"Other noted Devonshire pointers are those of Mr. Lloyd-Lloyd, of Totnes, who, as far back as 1875, I find exhibiting a bitch named Adele. From her, by Mr. Sam Price's Old Bang, he bred Hebe, who, in turn, being put to Lord Downe's Bang II. produced the field trial winners Fatima, Elias, and Hero, whose excellence cannot be gainsaid. Hebe's next litter, with Mr. W. Lort's Naso as their sire, included the good looking brace Totnes and Daphne, and the former, in alliance with Mr. J. Fletcher's Young Ponto, produced Nan, who, when the property of Mr. C. H. Beck, was the dam of Naso of Upton, by many persons considered to be one of the very best pointers ever bred, at any rate, so far as beauty was concerned.

"To Daphne Mr. Lloyd owes much of his early reputation as a successful breeder. Her career on the bench was brilliant. Shown always in the pink of condition, only bitches of extra merit could hold their own with her; moreover she transmitted to her progeny many of her most taking qualities, and some of the best in the Totnes kennels at the present day are directly descended from her. By her union with Mr. Norrish's great dog Graphic, she produced Zasme, Zero, and Zeus. The latter was a frequent winner at some of our principal shows, and, by mating him back to Old Hebe, Mr. Lloyd bred

the remarkably handsome brace of bitches Ilma and Lady Jane. Many connoisseurs considered Lady Jane the better of the brace. She was, however, some years since, sold to a gentleman in Russia, and we have thus lost sight of her. Ilma is with us still, and has added to the reputation of her kennel by producing a litter of puppies to Mr. Raper's Naso of Strasburg—a descendant of Price's old champion Bang. Another good litter which Mr. Lloyd bred from Daphne was that by Mr. Wroth's Don, the best of which were the well-known Totnes Parody and the lemon and white Totnes Onyx.

“That strain, of which Wroth's Don is a representative, deserves a passing notice. His dam, Mr. Andrew's Sappho, came directly from the Croxteth kennels, and was by Lord Sefton's Sam—his Flirt, while his sire, Mr. Norrish's Old Bob, was equally well bred, being by Mr. Whitehouse's renowned Hamlet—Pearl, Hamlet's granddaughter.

“Mr. Norrish's Donald, Revel, and Digby were all of the same family as Wroth's Don. Donald, it will be remembered, won at Birmingham in the small-sized dog class in 1879. After securing other leading prizes he went to America, where he continued his successful career. Revel proved to be a Field Trial crack, being very smart and fast. The part she took in a sensational trial at Blandford in 1882 is

related further on. She also won on the bench, but unfortunately died in her prime in Mr. Arkwright's kennels. Digby proved himself sire of Lady Digby, from whom sprang Count de Beaufort's Master Dan, a large-sized dog, whose *début* at the Alexandra Palace, where he won first prize, caused quite a flutter. One other representative of this family I must not forget, namely, Mr. Leach's Mina Juno, a daughter of Wroth's Don—Fursdon Juno. From Mina Juno came Mr. Norrish's Sandford Vesper and Saddleback Secundus, both by Saddleback.

“A familiar name amongst pointer breeders at the present day is that of Mr. R. Stawell Bryan, of South Molton. Coming out first as a successful poultry exhibitor, principally in the Game and Azeel classes, it was not a very big jump from poultry to pointers; and all the more easy as he had been a thorough sportsman from his boyhood, and knew practically what a pointer's work should be. Possessing a good strain to start with, he has consistently bred for size, substance, and working characteristics. Well do I remember Beta some ten years ago, when she was on a stud visit to Mr. Leach's grand old Bang II. One of the offspring of this union was Molton Broom, who can surely claim to be the very corner stone of Mr. Bryan's kennels.

Her litter brother, Molton Baron, was also extra good, his best progeny at the present day being Mr. Bulled's Devonshire Nero, already mentioned, Molton Byrsa, and Banker. The latter was good enough to win at Barn Elms, the Crystal Palace, and other large shows. Beta's pedigree traces back on her dam's side to Mr. Whitehouse's blood, while her sire was a brother to Mr. Stranger's well-known Don of Devon. Probably no pointer bitch of the present day has been more successful than Molton Broom, whose chief progeny, by Saddleback, have been Molton Banner, Molton Brake, Molton Bronte, Sandford Bang, Sandford Quince, Sandford Revel, Beau o' the Border, and Heather Graphic, all of which have gained their laurels in high-class company. Molton Broom also bred well to Mr. Lloyd's Totnes Milo, a son of Zero—Zoe, and produced the stoutly-made Bracken, from whom again sprang Sandford Graphic, sire of Mr. Norrish's Graphic Secundus, who was first in the Open and first in the Novice Class at the Kennel Club Show last July, but unfortunately succumbed to distemper shortly after.

"It would be by no means difficult to find other kennels of pointers in the county of Devon. Mr. Scratton, of Ogwell, always has some good dogs, also have Mr. Cross, of South Molton; Mr. Pring,

of Exeter; and Mr. Elias Bishop, of Ogwell, the latter's Señor Don Pedro being one of the fastest dogs of the generation, and a well-known field trial performer. Mr. C. Ford, of Stoke Cannon, deserves especial notice, as being the breeder of Blanche of Bromfield, winner at the Shrewsbury, Pointer Club, and Irish Field Trials in 1892. This bitch was by Mr. Ford's Okhay Mars, out of his Okhay Juno (a litter brother and sister), by his Mars—Belle, bred by Mr. Norrish, out of old Fursdon Juno, champion Graphic's dam, while Mars was by Bacchus out of Pearl, litter sister to Price's Bang.

"Devonshire pointer breeders must be congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts in spite of the fact that so many good dogs have left that county for other parts of the world. Devonshire is essentially a breeding corner, favoured by climate; winter puppies can easily be reared, and as nearly as possible brought to perfection. Fortunately, too, the driving of partridges is almost unknown in the west, and, so long as the pointer is used as a sporting dog, he will undoubtedly hold his own, but directly his hunting instincts are allowed to rust, and he is only kept for the show bench, his best days are numbered."

Of course, in addition to these Devonshire dogs, equally good pointers are to be found in various

kennels in different parts of Great Britain. For instance, at Rhiwlas, near Bala, in North Wales, Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price possesses dogs that are equal to the best of them, some of which have already been alluded to. For many years past the Rhiwlas kennels have been well represented at the field trials, running as a rule consistently, and with success. Drafts were sold annually at Aldridge's, in St. Martin's Lane, and have brought excellent prices; and in June, 1892, the bitch Saule, that had won at field trials, realised 80 guineas, whilst at the same time others brought up to 36 guineas each.

So far as these important sales are concerned, they have of late been looked forward to with great interest, as they enable those who have shootings, and do not keep dogs all the year round, to fill their kennels with either pointers, setters, spaniels, and retrievers that have been well broken. At Mr. Pilkington's sale, in June, 1884, four and a half brace of puppies sold for 418 guineas; Lymm, by Lake, realising 110 guineas; Peace, 60 guineas; Pardon, 56 guineas; Lincoln, 57 guineas; others, smaller sums. At the same auction, the old dogs sold almost as well, Dingle bringing 63 guineas; Lilac and Lake, 61 guineas each; Moffatt, 55 guineas; and Druid, 46 guineas.

All the dogs offered by auction do not realise the good figures one would expect, and it was almost sad to see the kennel of the late Mr. T. Statter dispersed one Friday afternoon in June, 1892, for almost an old song—seven brace of pointers, as good as man could produce, and upon which their late owner had spent much money and much thought, realising only 143 guineas. His setters brought even a lower average.

Another celebrated kennel of pointers is to be found near Whitchurch, Salop, and owned by the late Mr. Heywood Lonsdale, of Ightfield Hall, whose death we have to deplore as these pages are being printed. The Ightfield pointers have, during the past few years, been more successful than any others in field trial work at the English trials. But this did not satisfy their late owner, for on two occasions, in 1890-1, teams of his were sent over to America and Canada for field competition there. Notwithstanding the fact that the English dogs had never had an opportunity of hunting quail, the game bird of America, as the partridge is here, they soon took a liking to their new quarry, and acquitted themselves most satisfactorily, the liver and white bitch, Ightfield Deuce, taking the highest honours, as she had done in this country before and has done since, and all the others acquit-

ting themselves creditably. The team was in the charge of Mr. W. Brailsford, who, on his return, contributed an interesting article to the *Field* on the conduct and general management of field trials in America.

Also in Shropshire there is another valued kennel of pointers kept by Colonel Cotes, at Pitsford, and in work they are just as good as any others. It may be stated that the majority of these field trial dogs are rather higher on the leg, and generally built in more racing lines, or not so cobbily and heavily made as the pointers we see winning on the show bench. As a rule, they are good-looking enough for anything, and dogs like Ightfield Dick and Ightfield Deuce, both entered at the Kennel Club Show in June, 1892, were particularly smart in this respect, the first named especially.

The Rev. W. J. Richardson, in Oxfordshire, and his neighbour, the Rev. J. Pooley, in the same county, ought likewise to be mentioned as owners of pointers of undoubted excellence, Mr. Richardson having at one time been especially successful with animals of his own breeding, both in the field and on the bench; his dogs usually of the small or medium-sized strains, excel in quality. Then, in Northumberland, the Rev. W. Shield has another useful kennel of dogs that can do good field work

as well as appear to advantage in the ring. In Kent, Mr. F. Warde had a capital strain; so has Mr. F. C. Lowe, Sittingbourne; and Mr. Elias Bishop, Newton Abbot; Lieut.-Colonel Cornwall Legh, Cheshire; Mr. J. T. Hincks, Leicester; Mr. J. J. Pollack, Strathblane; the Hon. H. Fitzwilliam, Yorkshire; Mr. J. Milden, Tiverton; Mr. Mawson, Bromfield; Mr. W. L. Nicholson, Ercall Heath, Market Drayton; Mr. Humphreys, Mr. S. Moreton Thomas, Sir H. de Trafford, and Mr. James Bishop, Wellington, who with many others in various parts of the country, have made names for themselves as the owners of pointers of more than usual excellence. Mr. Barclay Field, who died early in the winter of 1892, also possessed a number of dogs which had done good work at Field Trials; and so had the late Sir T. B. Lennard.

Near Macclesfield, in Cheshire, Mr. C. H. Beck, at Upton Priory, has perhaps bred as good pointers as anyone during the present generation. His Rapid Ben, Busy Ben, Quail of Upton, Quits Baby were equally good in looks and work, and Naso of Upton, so successful on the bench, has previously been mentioned.

Allusion has already been made to sundry pointers of great excellence in the kennels of Mr. William Arkwright, of Sutton Scarsdale, Chesterfield. Of

late years he has taken, perhaps, more trouble and spent more money on his hobby of pointers than any other man, and he has achieved quite a proportionate success. For his kennel he has gone to what is generally considered "the old-fashioned" strains, some of which have been obtained from North Yorkshire and Durham. He is greatly antagonistic to such dogs as he considers show foxhound character in any way, such as undue strength of bone, thick round feet, and heavy heads. At Sutton Scarsdale he has a number of very superior animals which, in "dog language," may be said to show "a lot of breeding," *i.e.*, they abound in quality and are "highly strung." These qualities do not interfere with their work in the field, for they have appeared with great success in public, and do more than their share of work in Scotland in the autumn. On the show bench, too, they more than hold their own, a fact which was much in evidence at Curzon Hall, Birmingham, in December, 1896. Here both champion prizes went to Sutton Scarsdale by the aid of the lemon and white Alden Fluke, then seven years old, and Belle Chance, his sister, bred by C. Drury, who at that time looked after Mr. Arkwright's kennels and their inmates, and ran his dogs likewise. There is, I believe, every likelihood that Mr. Arkwright's strain of pointers will obtain a name, at

any rate, not below that achieved by any other family of the variety.

At the same show it was proved that there was another exhibitor who held quite as strong a hand as that possessed by the Derbyshire squire, for was not the latter beaten by three brace sent into the ring by Mr. R. Chapman, of Glenboig. These were a particularly level and even lot, and they included Mirth, Graphic, Bee, Bid, Bride, and Jewel, which bear the prefix of Heather. These were a particularly smart and even lot of pointers, which, individually, had done very badly at this show; whilst, probably, the lemon and white Jewel was not all round excelled by any other of her variety benched that day. She, as well as her kennel companions, had already won a great number of prizes, a performance which they will, doubtless, repeat in due course. As I write, Mr. Chapman has, doubtless, the strongest kennel of sporting dogs in Scotland, if not in Great Britain.

Mr. L. Bulled, in Devonshire, has a very excellent kennel of pointers just now, making quite a fine display when he brings them out at the big shows, his Birmingham teams in 1895-6 attracting considerable notice. In the former year they came reserve, in a very strong team competition, to those of Mr. Arkwright's.

Perhaps no one has had a more successful lot of pointers, so far as field trial work is concerned, with the slight addition of good looks, than Mr. J. H. Salter, of Tolleshunt d'Arcy, Witham, Essex. Some of his very best dogs have been black or black and white, and, in one or two cases, brown, or liver and white ticked, oddly marked, almost approaching "roan" in appearance. They were originally descended from Mike and Romp, the latter being by Francis's Chang out of Brackenbridge's Romp; Mike by Price's Bang—Miller's Sella, and moreover they went back to Brockton's Bounce and Whitehouse's Hamlet. There never was better blood than this, and, judiciously used, Mr. Salter has produced therefrom some of the fastest dogs of the present day. He had given Mr. Samuel Price, of Bow, Devonshire, a long price for Mike in 1876, and perhaps this dog, with his sire Bang, were as good a brace of pointers as ever ran, and Romp was not far behind them.

One who has often shot over both Mike and Romp said there was nothing between the two, excepting that when any particularly brilliant piece of work came to be done it was the bitch that did it. Mr. Salter believes that the excellence of the strain arose from the dam's side rather than that of the dog, and, from what I have seen of Bang and

Romp's progeny in other kennels, I believe this supposition to be quite correct.

At our English field trials the Mike-Romp strains have won, in the United States likewise; and there is no reason to doubt that one of the most valuable kennels of pointers in the States was that of Mr. Dexter. Such dogs as his Rip-Rap, Maid of Kent, and one or two others, one would very much like to have seen competing in this country, for, from the reports in the American Press, their work, and especially that of Rip-Rap, must have been well-nigh perfect.

Romp, a black and white mottled bitch, ran at Horseheath and other meetings in 1876-7, and she, no doubt, got her colour from Francis's strain, which were, as a rule, black and white. Mr. Salter speaks in the highest terms of them, of their great sense, speed, nose and endurance. He says they are difficult to break, because the "ordinary breaker will not give them credit for knowing more than he does; hence the whip comes in, a thing they never want and never forget." The late Mr. Herbert Brown was perhaps the most successful in training these pointers. "He never flogged, and patience and careful study told him that, when he and they disagreed in opinion, the dogs were almost always right and he wrong."

I have repeatedly seen this strain of pointers perform at our English Field Trials, and at times their work could not be surpassed. They possessed pace, nose, and knowledge—the latter often caused their downfall. However, no pointer kennel of such limited dimensions as that of Mr. Salter has ever produced such excellent performers as Romp, Mike, Romp's Baby, Monitor, Mainspring (a great winner in America), Malt, Hops, Shandygaff, and some others have proved themselves to be.

Malt's visit to old Priam (then the late Sir T. B. Lennard's) was most successful, for it produced, amongst others, Osborne Ale and Stout that ran respectively first and third in the Feld Derby in 1885, and she herself had won at Stratford-on-Avon the year before. To Naso of Upton she bred Shandygaff and others. Some other crosses did not appear to "nick" so well, and since then she has failed to breed. It is a great pity that this same strain had not been kept in more than one kennel. It would have allowed some in-breeding, and I am afraid that, in the long run, it may be lost.

The dog Mike, from 1874 to 1876, won nine prizes at field trials, six of them firsts, the remaining three he divided with other dogs. During the same period he was successful on the show bench, commencing with a second at the Alexandra Palace

in 1875, and a first at the Crystal Palace next year. Mike died in 1884, leaving behind him a reputation as one of the hardiest and best pointers that ever ran, and I am not aware that any other pointer has approached his record, both in the field and on the bench.

Probably, the best work ever done at Field Trials was in a heat run between Romp's Baby and Mr. Arkwright's Revel, which took place at Blandford, Dorset, in 1882. One who was present at the time writes as follows: "I had not been there the first day, and only got over to Mr. Farquharson's the night before, so was anxious to obtain all the information I could from those who had seen the trials so far, my interest being accentuated from the fact of my having a dog in the stake.

"Everybody seemed to be of opinion that the contest between the dogs named above would be a close one, and there was much speculation as to the result, opinions being pretty evenly balanced as to which was the better. Both went very fast, and up to now no hole had been found in their prowess. The handler of Romp's Baby, Mr. Herbert Brown, was very confident (he was always so); still, there was considerable doubt as to the result. The two dogs were ordered down on a ploughed field recently rolled, and looking as flat as a billiard table, without

the least covert, and the sun was shining, so brightly that imagination could readily lead to the belief that a beetle could be seen a hundred yards away. It was not a big field, and the wind was coming in on our right quarter. In those days pace was much more thought of than now, and so long as the nose was good enough to 'stop 'em' it was all right. The fear, however, with an extra fast one is that he will overrun his nose or commit faults which a slower and more careful dog would not do.

"Dr. Salter whispered a word of caution to Mr. Brown about casting the bitch off, so that she had not too much ground to cover before she came round into the wind (her practice being to go from one side of the field to the other, taking the most perfect quartering, and never going over stale ground), and then, the word being given, off they went like greyhounds racing for the first point! (the turn). No one quite knew which was the faster till they got together—neck and neck they raced alongside, each doing her best, and then Romp's Baby drew out and left her friend, who, finding herself outpaced (for the first time in her life), wheeled about and took an independent beat. Romp's Baby completed her cast to the fence, took fresh ground, got the wind in her teeth, and was soon swiftly coming up the field as fast as a swallow, and as prettily. She overtook

Revel, once more inviting her to test her pace, which she did, but, finding it 'no go,' again turned sulkily away, and went on her own errand. The crowd marvelled at the speed of the Baby—for she was very small and of that black or blue mottled variety—and looked on with astonishment to see how Revel 'chucked up the sponge,' her sulkiness at being outpaced increasing as the trial went on. Presently Baby, coming up the field with the wind in her favour, on reaching the centre, pulled up as in a cloud of dust, and stood like a statue, attitudinising like a stage dancer, her neck outstretched, her stern poised stiffly, her toes hardly touching the earth, her whole form quivering! Never was there a more earnest point, but what was it?

"There lay the field shining and shimmering like a newly-rolled onion bed, not a vestige and not the chance of anything being on it, without being seen, bigger than an earwig! Mr. Brown pulled up in almost as stagey an attitude as the bitch; he had confidence in the bitch, but her owner afterwards said he doubted the scent, but thought perhaps the Baby saw something. There she stood, as Revel, a clever sensible bitch, came galloping up behind her. She took in the position, came upon Baby's tracks, gave a slight jerk, half intending to acknow-

ledge the point, and then, slowing down, passed her opponent, who never budged an inch. Revel moved about in front in a half hesitating way, and lo! to the surprise of everybody, up got a brace of birds fifty yards on their left front. Mr. Brown, of course, claimed them for the bitch, and everybody thought she had behaved well, and Revel very badly. The latter was brought back, but Baby stood on, stock still—no flinching, no dropping, when the birds had risen—there stood she, stiffer than ever, and, if possible, more in the air—you could almost see daylight under her feet! Her handler, his heart never in doubt, began to regard her with attention, and then, as it were, ‘tumbling to it,’ went up to her side and tried to move her on—but no, she seemed to say ‘I’ve got my birds, you may have a field full if you like, but if you want mine you must trust me.’

“Everybody stood in intense excitement to see the bitch ‘do or die,’ make a fool of herself, or come out with something wonderful. It was odds on the fool. With much pressure, she was forced on a few yards, when a hare jumped up close to her, which never shook her in the least, and then, nearly a hundred yards away, a pair of birds rose, right in her line, and that instant she dropped, as though she had been shot!

"The first person who came up to congratulate the owner of the dog was Mr. Arkwright, who said it was the most wonderful piece of work he ever saw. After this Revel almost refused to go on, repeatedly coming back to her trainer, and working in short circles around him ; she had met more than her match for the first time, and, like many greyhounds, race horses, and other things bred for competition, she saw the un-wisdom of continuing the contest and 'turned it up.' It need scarcely be said that Romp's Baby won the stake outright, never making a mistake during the whole of her courses, and never allowing an opponent to make a point."

It may be well to mention a brace and a half of pointers which I fancy pretty nearly make a record as field trial winners, both here and elsewhere. Perhaps of the trio Mr. F. C. Lowes' lemon and white Ben of Kippen should come the first, a strong useful dog, scaling 55lb. in weight, but, being low and thick-set, he does not seem to be so heavy. He was born in July, 1889, and was running from his puppyhood the following season until 1895, and may even be given another trial before these pages are before the public. He was always able to gallop as fast as his opponents, quartered his ground better, and had quite as good a nose. He is equally good on all kinds of game. His winnings include nine

first prizes, two second prizes, and three third prizes, and he competed altogether about twenty times, inclusive of Continental meetings. His winnings closely approach £600. Ben's pedigree is interesting, as he combines all our best known strains of pointers through his sire Rocket R. and his dam Laura of Kippen. From the former he has Graphic and Wagg blood, and from his dam, who was by Naso of Kippen, he goes back to old Bang, to whom he is rather in-bred and to Champion Drake. Like all of us Ben of Kippen had his bad days, but when not flurried and flustered, and on his best behaviour, perhaps nothing in the world could have beaten him, excepting, perhaps, through such a performance as that of Romp's Baby mentioned on a preceding page. He made out game at extraordinary distances, was staunch and certain, and no dog ever quartered and beat out his ground better. Poor old Ben deserves even a better monument than the one he has—his portrait is the trade mark for a certain dog food.

Mr. W. Arkwright's black dog Tap is another notability, and of him much has already been said. He was born in June, 1891, his sire being Rapp VI. (26,631), his dam Sella Price (24,454), by Barton Don, and he was still running and running well in 1896. His wins include in 1892 second prize at the Kennel

Club Trials at Ipswich, and thirds at the Irish Trials and at the Pointer Trials, these being in the puppy stakes. In 1893 he won the All-aged stakes at the Kennel Club meeting and third at the pointer Club; in 1894 he was first at Bolbec, the Normandy trials, third at Chirk, pointer club, and second in the all-aged stake over grouse at Bala. The same year and in 1895 he won the braces stakes at Bala and at the Kennel Club meeting running in conjunction with Mistletoe. In the latter year he won second in the all-aged stake at the Setter Club's meeting near Bedford and third at the International Club's gathering at Bala as already mentioned. Tap weighs 66lb.; like Ben he does not appear to be so heavy, but he is a very thick set and muscular dog. His wins of course do not equal those of Ben of Kippen, but they are interesting because extending over four years and being gained on both grouse and partridge, and in Ireland, Wales, England, and on the Continent.

If Mr. G. Pilkington's (now W. L. Nicholson's) liver and white pointer Woolton Druid, never achieved such notoriety as the brace already named, he has been pretty well as reliable a performer. Without possessing the dash of either Ben or Tap, he could keep pegging away pretty nearly as fast as any of them, and he carried his head finely and looked

perfection itself when on game, but he was by no means what may be called a sensational dog. Born in 1892, by Woolton Dick out of Lawn, he ran fourth in the puppy stake at the National meeting in the spring of 1893, and in the autumn of the same year he won the St. Leger stakes and the championship at the Irish trials. In 1894, he was placed first at Chirk at the Pointer Club's meeting; first at that of the Setter Club and ran a good second for the Acton Reynald stake at Shrewsbury. The following year he again won at the Setter Club's trials near Bedford, and was fourth in the champion stake at Shrewsbury in 1895. Those are performances above the average and thus worthy of being chronicled here. Druid is a muscular, compact dog weighing 56lb.

Somewhat at random, I have mentioned the most famous breeders and their famous dogs in order to show that the pointer, in all its excellence, is a common commodity, although a valuable one with us. His pedigree is rigorously kept in the stud books, and his performances in the spring are studiously repeated in the columns of the *Field*, and to give the names of all the best dogs that have appeared during the past twenty years would be but repetition, and a difficult thing to accomplish satisfactorily. Prince Solms, at Braunsfels, in Prussia, has, at one time or another had

English pointers equal to the best that have remained in this country, and the writer will never forget the excellent work his brace, Naso of Kippen and Jilt of Braunfels, did on the dry fallow field near Shrewsbury in 1885, at a time when every one had come to the conclusion that there was no scent.

With the establishment of the Pointer Club, in 1887, a special Field Trial Meeting was annually held by its managers, and special prizes were offered by the Club for competition at the principal shows. Somehow or other the later meetings of the Pointer Club which had been held in the vicinity of Wrexham were not very successful, and in the end the club was allowed to lapse. From its ashes, as it were, sprung the International Pointer and Setter Association, which has for its object the improvement of both varieties, so far as work and appearance are concerned, the former especially. It was successfully inaugurated by an autumn field trial meeting over grouse in 1895, which was continued in 1896, and will go on in the future, when it is hoped its International surroundings will be intensified by a meeting to be held on the continent. Without doubt the support given by the club in the first instance, and by the International Club later, has been of great advantage to the pointer from all points of view, and notwithstanding modern changes

and prevailing fashion in shooting, there is little likelihood of the star of the modern pointer being eclipsed in the near future.

As a sporting dog, the pointer can work as hard and as long as a setter; on account of his smooth coat, he does this in hot weather better than any other dog, and is not so soon knocked up, through want of water, as the setter is. There is no reason to compare the varied excellences of the two varieties, for here it may be said "Jack is as good as his master." One day, one may do the best work; another day, the others may excel; both are sufficiently perfect in their way for modern requirements, and there is, in reality, no ostensible reason for the preference of the one over the other, excepting, as I have stated, where a scarcity of water is concerned. The two varieties are equal; with similar surroundings and in similar health there is nothing to choose between either, nor is there in staunchness. It has been said that the setter is less steady, more difficult to command, and not so easy to break as the pointer. Such is not so.

There are strains of both that are equally wild and headstrong, and, as a matter of fact, such, when once brought under command, produce the most successful dogs as field trial winners; and, when birds are scarce, and the extent of land to be worked

over very extensive, they are the best dogs in the field for practical work. In a wet stormy country, where the climate is cold and chilly, the going rough and covert thick, the ordinary pointer may be at a discount, and he has been found to be so in some parts of Scotland, the Highlands and elsewhere; but, excepting where the circumstances and surroundings are exceptional, our modern pointer will do all that is required of him; work a long day, and come up the following one ready to do another, and to assist his master to fill the game bag.

I consider the usual light colour of the pointer is to the advantage of the shooter, who can much more easily distinguish his dog against the dark outline of heather and bracken, when being used on the moors, and the idea that the birds better see a white coloured dog, and therefore do not lie so well to him, is altogether fallacious. Those who have shot over the wide expanses of Scottish moors or Irish mountains with free ranging dogs doing the work, will agree with me that the dark colour of many of the setters requires so much strain on the eyes to discern them at even comparatively short distances, as to interfere with the average of the shooter.

Before entering at length into his description it may be as well to state that the classes at the

more important shows are arranged to meet his different sizes, for the pointer varies in this respect more than any other sporting dog. Such classification is usually for "large-sized" dogs 55lb. weight and over, and bitches 50lb. weight and over; the "small size" including dogs under 55lb. weight, and bitches under 50lb. in weight.

The pointer is an elegantly shaped dog, smooth in *coat*, which, though close and weather-resisting, ought not to be hard and coarse. In some strains there is a tendency to be rather coarse in the stern, which in reality is no detriment, though smooth and fine caudal appendages are fashionable. The latter is so much the case, that it is not unusual to find the tail trimmed by singeing or other means, until it resembles that of a bull terrier. Not long ago one of the prize pointers at Birmingham was so very much "done" that disqualification ought to have resulted. The *stern*, is nicely set on from the back, carried straight out, with a downward tendency rather than otherwise. A hound carried stern is a great detriment. In work it is dashed from side to side until the animal obtains "a point," when all the muscles are rigid.

The *head* should be fairly long and broad at the skull, and at the muzzle without any undue tapering; where the latter occurs a "snipy" or narrow

appearance is given that is not correct. The development at the occiput should be nicely defined, but not too much so; there may be more stop than in the setter, and the head is generally rather shorter and broader than in the latter variety. *Ears* soft and hanging gracefully; although set on moderately low, not so low as in the hound, nor should they fold, rather lying close to the cheeks. The *nose* broad, nostrils wide, and such as will give the impression of being particularly useful in finding game by scent. In lemon and white, orange and white, and in light coloured specimens generally, the nose should be of a so-called "flesh colour"; in dark coloured specimens black noses are desirable. However, a dark brown or a liver coloured nose is often seen, and when in unison with the body markings of the dog is not objectionable. *Eyes*, pleasant in expression, dark in colour; pale lemon or "yellow gooseberry" coloured eyes are on the increase, and such are objectionable, ugly, and ought to be a severe handicap to the dog possessing them. They are certainly not a sign of amiability. The *lips*, should be square, and very slightly pendulous, or rather, less tight than those of a terrier. *Neck* well placed and free from throatiness in any part of it. As in all dogs good sloping shoulders are desirable. *Chest* deep, powerful, and

ribs nicely sprung behind and carried so to the loins, which ought to be strong and muscular. Stifles well turned and powerful, and generally the muscular development in the hind quarters must be great, for the work a pointer has to do is arduous.

The fore *legs* and *feet* are important for a similar reason. The former strong, without being too massive and cumbersome; elbows fairly well let down, but not turned out, neither ought they to be turned inwards, for when the latter is the case the dog is likely to be flat ribbed and have his fore legs set too closely together, like many of the modern fox terriers. The fore legs ought to be well set on, and if carried too far back are objectionable, as a chicken-breasted appearance is given; and a dog so made cannot gallop. As to the feet, the Pointer Club has adopted "Stonehenge's" description, with which I quite agree. This is as follows: "Breeder have long disputed the comparatively good qualities of the round, cat-like foot, and the long one, resembling that of the hare. In the pointer, my own opinion is in favour of the cat-foot, with the toes well arched and close together. This is the *desideratum* of the M.F.H., and, I think, stands work better than the hare foot, in which the toes are not arched, but still lie close together. In the setter, the greater amount of hair, to a certain extent,

condones the inherent weakness of the hare foot ; but in the pointer no such superiority can be claimed. The main point, however, is the closeness of the pads combined with thickness of the horny covering." So far as hare feet are concerned, an ordinary foot of this description would be severely handicapped by modern judges, who persist in a hard, close, thick foot, which in reality is squarer and more angular than a round foot, but equally thick—even thicker.

Shape and *symmetry* are something in every animal, especially in short-coated dogs. As to *colour*, it is a matter of fancy whether it be lemon or white or liver and white. Once the lemon and orange and whites were fashionable, now the liver and whites appear to be the more popular ; the paler lemon, with a tendency towards whiteness, is not good nor nice. Black and white pointers are handsome, and, possibly, were some breeders to introduce three or four perfect specimens on the show bench they might put the noses of the liver and whites out of joint. Liver and white heavily ticked is not a bad colour, but, as it nearly approaches whole colours, liver and black—because they are less easy to distinguish whilst being worked than the others—is not to be recommended, and, in the ring, ought to be handicapped accordingly.

The best colours are liver and white, lemon and white, and black and white, bearing precedence as written.

I should allot the points of the pointer as follows :—

	Value.		Value.
Skull	10	Legs, elbows, and hocks	10
Muzzle	10	Feet	10
Ears, eyes, and lips	10	Stern	5
Neck	5	Symmetry and quality	15
Shoulders and chest	10	Colour and coat	5
Back, quarters, and stifles	10		
	—		—
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

Perhaps I might be deemed guilty of a serious omission were I to overlook the fact that American and foreign admirers of the pointer have been more successful in producing good animals from stock obtained from us, than has been the case with others similarly situated, who have sought to breed St. Bernards, Setters, Spaniels, and any other variety of dog in perfection ; and more money has been spent on any of the latter than on the pointer.

South Carolina produced a Beaufort, whose excellence as a show dog has never been gainsaid, and for whom that good judge, Mr. C. H. Mason, of New York, paid a very large sum of money. Count de Beaufort sent from Belgium Master

Dan, who beat our cracks at the Kennel Club Show in 1889; Mr. G. Raper had Naso of Strasburg from Germany, a dog that, when in his prime, must at any rate have been as good as the best; and other foreign bred pointers have on several occasions more than held their own at our usual field trial meetings. At the show of the Westminster Kennel Club, New York, held in February, 1897, and which in America holds a similar position to the Birmingham and Kennel Club exhibitions here, there was an entry of upwards of one hundred pointers. The judge, Mr. George Raper, of Sheffield, pronounced them an excellent lot, and as a group quite equal to the best he has ever seen in Curzon Hall or at the Crystal Palace. The pointer appears to be the most popular "shooting dog" in the States, and, as already hinted, their admirers there have been more successful in breeding them up to the highest standard of excellence than is the case with the setter in any of his three varieties.

Such dogs as have been brought from the continent by M. Puissant, M. Drory, M. Caillard, M. Richards, M. Morreen and others, would come to the front anywhere, and the work of such dogs as Master of Merlebeke, Drake of Merbes, Bendigo of Brussels, and Fly des Bordes will never be forgotten over here as creditable alike to their

countries and to their trainers. It was in 1894 when the last named, a son of old Paris, almost romped through the puppy stake at the National meeting, which will be recollected on account of its dampness, and in 1896 there was not a better puppy running at our English trials than Bendigo of Brussels. Nor does this short list by any means exhaust the names of the good dogs of the variety produced outside the British Isles, and maybe injustice is done to some by the omission of their names.

1900-1901
1902-1903



CHAPTER II.

THE SETTER.

THE setter has been called by his many admirers the handsomest of all varieties of our English sporting dogs, and whether he be rich red in colour, like the Irish strain; glossy black and tan, as the Gordon; or gaudily blue and white, or orange and white, as in the English race, there is no more beautiful dog seen in our fields or on the show bench. Other canine varieties are bigger, some, of course, are more diminutive; in temper he is excelled by none, and, so long as his kindly countenance is not disfigured by light yellow eyes and a heavy cumbrous dewlap, nothing in the way of live-stock can be handsomer than he. His intelligence and utility in the field and on the moor no one will gainsay; so there is little wonder that his popularity has gradually but surely increased during the past quarter of a century.

There was a time when the setter was unknown in this country by his present name, and this cannot

have been at a far distant date. His old cognomen of spaniel still attaches to him in certain country districts remote from the railway, and in which old customs and old names die hard. Not long ago, whilst on a visit to Ireland, I repeatedly heard the modern setter dubbed a spaniel, and early in the present century the same dog was quite as often called a spaniel as not. "*Kunopædia*, a practical essay on breaking and training the English spaniel and pointer," by the late William Dobson, of Eden Hall, Cumberland, was published in 1814, and in this, one of the earliest works of its kind specially devoted to breaking sporting dogs, the word spaniel must be read to mean setter. The instructions given throughout the work are those likely to be useful in training a dog to stand, point, and do his work according to the modern idea of excellence in his line.

A history of the setter should, of course, commence at the very earliest portion of his career, but old writers are particularly silent on the point, even more so than when they have attempted to trace the rise and advent of other dogs, those used in the field for hunting, those trained to guard the flocks and the household, or others used as companions, as lap-dogs, for fancy and amusement alone.

In Great Britain the domestic dog has for hundreds

of years been held in high estimation as a useful addition to the sporting equipage. From time immemorial almost has he been utilised for the purpose of hunting wild animals, both by scent and sight, but when a variety of his kind was first trained to "set," "couch," or "stand" the smell of game, do so without going sufficiently near to alarm and disturb it, and so afford the sportsman accompanied by such a dog an opportunity of killing such game with an arrow from his bow or taking it in his net, history is not very explicit.. H. D. Richardson, who, about forty years ago, wrote several little hand-books on country matters, including one about dogs, says that the spaniel was first broken to set partridges and other feathered game as an assistant to the net, by Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in the year 1335. Whether this date be correct or not I cannot say, for the author does not say where he obtained his information. However, other writers, and perhaps more reliable ones, including Delabere Blaine (1840), say that "Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, as early as 1555, is said to have trained a setter to the net; and that other authorities of antecedent dates notice the sitter, or setter, as a dog used for sporting purposes. It must not, therefore, be concluded that the application of him by Dudley was his advent, although he might not until

then have been employed as "sitting or crouching to the game he found."

That the spaniel was well known earlier than the middle of the sixteenth century, and dogs of a certain kind were used for finding birds, under somewhat similar conditions as are observed to-day, long prior to the introduction of firearms, there is no doubt whatever.

First of all, such dogs as spaniels were trained to find birds at which the falconer flew his hawks. Strutt, in his "Sports and Pastimes," quotes from a fourteenth century manuscript, written in the reign of Edward III., father of the Black Prince. This old writer and interesting antiquarian says the spaniel was of use in hawking, "hys crafte is for the perdrich, or partridge, and the quaile; and when taught to couch he is very serviceable to those who take these birds with nets." This is the earliest allusion I can find of trained dogs so nearly approaching in their work the well broken setter and pointer of modern times.

The spaniel must have been a steady, highly-trained dog even then, and this taking of game by nets is, in some localities, unfortunately, still practised by the poacher, especially at night time, when a lighted lantern is fixed on the dog's back. The blaze enables the poacher to see his dog, which,

standing and drawing up to his game, when sufficiently close, comes to a full stop, and a net is drawn or cast over birds and dogs alike. Five hundred years ago there was some excuse for taking game by means of nets, but with modern firearms, breech-loading guns so quickly charged and emptied, the net ought to have disappeared entirely. Still, its use is now confined entirely to some few ill-conditioned, grasping hill farmers, or the more sportsman-like poacher.

There is an engraving (of the early part of the fourteenth century) still preserved in the Royal Library which depicts two ladies and one attendant hawking. Here are two spaniels of that day, odd-looking creatures enough, with pendulous ears and long hound-like tails, evidently in the act of going carefully up to some game or other, and the attitude of the huntresses, with their hands raised and carefully poised, gives the idea that they are steadying their dogs with their ancient equivalent of "So ho! careful, good dogs!" The lady carrying her hawk on her hand is drawing the attention of her bird to the action of the dogs.

An earlier MS. than this is illustrated by the figure of an archer in the act of shooting a bird on the wing. This is from the Saxon of about the eighth century; the sportsman here is not accom-

mounted of a gentle kind, and there be two sorts : the first findeth the game on the land, the other on the water. Such as delight on land play their parts either by swiftness of foot, by often questing, to search out and to spying the bird for further hope of advantage, or else by the secret sign or privy token betray the place where they fall.

The first kind of such serve the hawk, the second the net or train. The first kind have no particular names assigned them, so only that they be nominated after the bird which by natural appointment he is allotted to take. Thus, some be called dogs for the falcon, some for the pheasant, some for the partridge, and such like.

The common sort of people call them by one general word, namely, 'spaniells,' as though these kind of dogs came originally and first out of Spain. The most part of their skins are white, and if they be marked with any spots, they are commonly red and somewhat great, the hairs not growing with such sickness but that the mixture may be easily perceived. Others be reddish or blackish, but of that sort there are but few. There is also at this day a new kind of dog brought out of France (for we Englishmen are marvellous greedy, gaping gluttons after novelties, and covetous cormorants of things

that be seldom, rare, strange, and hard to get) and they be speckled all over with white and black, which mingled colours incline to a marble blue, which beautifyeth their skin and affordeth a seemly show of comeliness. These are called French dogs, as is above declared already.

“The dog called the Setter, in Latin Index.—Another sort of dog there be serviceable for fowling, making no noise either with foot or tongue whilst they follow the game. These attend diligently upon their masters, and frame their conditions to such beck, motions, and gestures as it shall please him to exhibit and make, either going forward, drawing backward, inclining right hand or yielding to the left. In making mention of fowl my meaning here is of partridge and quail. When he hath found the bird he keepeth sure and fast silence, and stayeth his steps and will proceed no further, and with close, covert, watching eye, layeth his belly to the ground and so creepeth forward like a worm. When he approacheth near to the place where the bird is, he lays down, and with a mark of his paws betrayeth the place of the bird’s last abode, whereby it is supposed that this kind of dog is called Index—setter, being, indeed, a name both consonant and agreeable with his quality.”

Caius then proceeds to tell how the fowler ensnares

the birds in his net, and he does not look upon the performance as very extraordinary, for such a dog is a "household servant, brought up at home, with offals and the trenchers and fragments of victuals;" and a hare, "a wild and skippert beast, has been trained to dance a measure, play upon a tabbaret, and nip and punch a dog with her teeth and claws." This performing hare Dr. Caius saw in the year 1564.

There is no mention of shooting birds over such dogs, but in a later chapter, when writing of the water spaniel, our author alludes to him as useful in bringing back the boults and arrows that have missed their mark [game], and also such water fowl as be stung to death by any venomous worm.

Although Caius uses the words index and setter in application to a dog used in a manner very similar to that in which he performs his duty at the present day, his tone of writing conveys the idea that such a dog was not generally known in his time. Still there were certainly setters in the sixteenth century, and I very much regret Caius did not give us a picture of one "crawling along the ground like a worm."

As he did not, a search elsewhere must be made for an illustration, and this I found, and bearing an earlier date than the year when Caius first wrote his

little book. In the summer of 1891 an exhibition of "Sport illustrated by Art," was held in the Grosvenor Gallery, London, and here were hung a large number of most valuable subjects of the painter's art. To me there were few so interesting as a canvas upon which was painted one of the many delineations of the patron saint of hunting, St. Hubert, by Albrecht Dürer, the great painter, who died in 1528. In one corner of the picture was a black tan and white setter extraordinary in its resemblance to many of the modern stamp. Indeed, so perfect was the likeness that one was tempted to look and re-look at the picture until the wonder was aroused where the painter obtained his model from which he made the sketch, or whether this modern setter on an ancient canvas was an emanation from his own brain. The head, coat, ears, character, and colour of the dog were all there, a typical specimen of the modern English setter in black, white, and tan—a dog similar in all other respects, but higher on the leg and not so massive and inclined to the spaniel type as that excellent tri-colour dog shown by Mr J. B. Cockerton, and winning recently under the name of Royal Rap.

Albrecht Dürer was a Flemish painter. Had he been from Spain, I might have taken his production as some sort of evidence that our spaniel or setter did originally come from Spain. All authorities say

so, but produce no proof of the fact. The country of bull-fights appears to have been generally a happy hunting-ground for the discovery of valued strains of the dog, for, it has been said, the bull-dog had its origin there. One English admirer of the latter actually took a journey into Spain for the purpose of bringing back new blood of pure bulldog race, with which to cross and improve what he considered the degenerating bulldog of Great Britain! John Bull allowing his *fidus Achates* to degenerate! What an idea! I may say *en passant* that the big, vulgar Spanish dog, with his ears shorn off, that was imported, did not improve our native breed, nor has our British bulldog degenerated in the manner suggested. Even now, as in the day of Johannes Caius, we like something foreign in the form of dog flesh, and to Spain have we likewise flown for a coarse pointer; to France for poodles; to Holland for pugs; and to the north of Europe and China for ladies' pets and toy dogs.

Before leaving the subject of old painters and setters, allusion must be made to a picture by Alexander Desportes, a French artist of great skill, to whom allusion has previously been made.

He was expressly employed at the court of Louis XIV. as historiographer of the chase, a position which his abilities enabled him to fulfil much to the

satisfaction of his royal master. The painting in question is one of dogs and partridges. There are three of the former, two of them evidently setters and one of them pointing a covey, with one foot forward, is very much like the dog painted by Dürer, and already mentioned—namely, a black, tan, and white flecked animal, of quite the modern setter type. Another dog, on the point, is black and white, and a setter; whilst the third, also black and white, might be a cross between pointer and setter. Anyhow, the latter is much smoother in coat than either of its companions. I think no more evidence than the above pictures by great artists, need be given to convince those who may be interested in the matter and still doubtful, that the setter is not quite so modern a creature as some writers would have us suppose. At any rate, we have substantial proof that a dog remarkably similar, if not actually identical, with our modern English setter, was known as early as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

There are many other paintings of sporting scenes and accessories that include dogs of some kind or other; but the writer has not met with any so old as those already alluded to where the artist has so nearly delineated the English setter of the present day.

Aldrovandus, who died in 1607, had written an immense work on Natural History, a portion of which was published posthumously. Amongst other subjects, he wrote about dogs, but, his history being in Latin, and somewhat scarce, a reference thereto has not always been attainable. He illustrates two varieties of what are called the Spanish dogs, and one of them is described as having "pendulous ears, chest and belly white, with black spots, the rest of the body black." The engraving accompanying this description is an odd-looking creature, one that might by courtesy be considered a bad spaniel. The stern is setter-like in length, but carried gaily over the back. The ears are very long, set high on the head, and there is a fair amount of feather and coat both on them, on the body, and on the legs. Aldrovandus's second specimen is a rather bigger dog than the other, and the colour might be black and white. Here the ears are not so long, and generally this illustration is more of the setter than the one first named.

Strangely enough, this great historian, who bore a reputation for extreme reliability, gives us a third sporting dog of somewhat similar variety. This he describes as "a spotted dog used for taking quail." It has evidently had its tail amputated, or maybe it is a natural "bob-tail" some people are so fond of

telling us about. In any case, whether the curtailment was natural or artificial, here is a bob-tailed dog, spotted almost as much as a Dalmatian or coach dog, in the act of flushing a bird. Unfortunately, Ulysses Aldrovandus does not tell us much about these dogs, but it is interesting to mention them here as early specimens of the dog from Spain, from whence it is said our modern races of setters and spaniels are derived. But when they came from that peninsula, or who introduced them eastward into the countries where they are now common, there is no record.

Then Conrad Gesner, whom dear old Izaak Walton was so fond of quoting, tells us something about dogs, but not much. Born at Zurich in 1516, he died of the plague in 1565, and between these two dates he wrote his chief work, "*Historiæ Animalium*," a volume that obtained for him the name of the Pliny of Germany. Gesner says there were two sorts of dogs that follow their masters, who use a small firearm (*minor bombarda*) for the purpose of taking fowl. He, however, only alludes to them as bringing birds to their masters; but naturally education in the art of retrieving would follow that of finding the birds. So there is little doubt that these sixteenth century dogs that Gesner wrote about, not only found the game, but brought it to

their masters when shot, just as a well-trained dog of the present day would do.

Firearms and gunpowder had been introduced long prior to this, and, although the earliest guns were big cumbrous weapons that had to be fired from a rest, tubes for firing gunpowder from the shoulder were introduced into England about 1440. From this date until approaching the middle of the following century appears an extraordinarily long period for the development of the firearm from an implement of warfare to one for sporting purposes. We must not, however, forget that in these early days of firearms, the wounds caused by them were almost always fatal, possibly not so much on account of the nature of the wound, but because the surgical treatment at that time was of an unskilful character. Such being the case, those whose pleasure it was to kill birds or other creatures would not care to do so with either a "minor bombard" or a "scorpion"—the latter a name given to the first shoulder firearm used in this country—for the flesh would be considered more or less contaminated by the influence of the missile used, so rendered less fitted for the cook to dress up for her noble master's repast.

This appears to me a reasonable conjecture for the slow progress made at this time in the popularisation of the firearm as an implement for the

sportsman. Besides, the latter would be the more proficient with the bow, for the "scorpion" was but a sorry article with which to take aim, and the priming of the guns was something of a job to do. There were no flints then, and percussion caps had not even been thought of. As a fact, so recently as the end of the eighteenth century—viz., in 1792, a match was made and shot at Parton Green, in Cumberland, in which the merits of a musket, a brown Bess, were tested at a mark against a bow and arrow. The latter came out victorious in the contest, scoring sixteen hits out of twenty shots at 100 yards to twelve hits made by the supposed to be deadlier firearm. Looking back upon a match of this kind, one cannot help forming an opinion that the result was not because the bow and arrow were superior to the old brown Bess, but was solely owing to the lack of skill possessed by the handler of the musket.

When the prejudices against the new weapon had worn themselves out, no doubt its popularity increased apace. The Game Laws on the continent being less stringent than in England in 1555, it became necessary to have some legislation whereby the use of firearms should be restricted. Then we have the Elector of Saxony at that time issuing an order prohibiting the use of them excepting under

certain conditions, and this because "the carrying of firearms had become so general in our dominions, that not only travellers but shepherds and peasants used them." Shot of some kind was known at that time, but not the well regulated pellets that came in somewhat later, and are used even to-day. In Mecklenberg in 1562 a Government regulation prohibited the use "of hail shot entirely and absolutely." The dogs, too, would require to be particularly staunch, for they would have to remain standing and quiet during the time their masters were taking aim at the quail or partridge, or the more timid hare.

Some time after this James I. was reigning in England, and no doubt he with "his shuffling trot and his jerkin" would be giving some attention to the dogs of the field, for was he not one of our most sporting kings? though he did not love the weed tobacco. His Majesty took his dogs out with him on his favourite hawking expeditions, and they couched to and flushed the game at which the peregrine falcon and the goshawk were flown. One would have expected to find something relating to dogs of the field in the King's "Book of Sports," but the pastimes mentioned therein, do not include game shooting, nor was it likely that his Majesty would deem an amusement of this kind fitted for the

Sabbath day. It was in James's reign that the franchise was raised so far as the keeping of "hounds or setting dogs" was concerned, and unless qualified through himself or wife, as the owner of land to the value of £10 per annum (or £30 per annum if only of life interest) no man was allowed to keep such dogs, under severe laws and penalties. The son of a knight or lord or the son and heir apparent of an esquire was exempt. After various changes the qualification was again raised, this was in Charles II. reign, when a new Act raised the franchise to £100 a year landed income of self or wife, or £150 a year in life interest or lease of ninety-nine years. A "son or heir apparent of an esquire, or other person of higher degree," was also qualified to keep sporting dogs and engines of chase, as scheduled in the Act, and no one else.

The next stage was the introduction of the "game certificate" of three guineas a year, payable to the Revenue (25 Geo. III., c. 50). But this certificate, though required to qualify, was not in lieu of the property and birth qualification of Charles II. statute, but superadded to it. The cost of a gamekeeper's licence under this Act was one guinea. The property qualification finally lapsed as to England and Scotland in the reign of William IV., and from the enactment then brought into force, no

material change has since been made, excepting so far as certain excise arrangements and other modifications are concerned. It may be said here that in the reign of Richard II. the property qualification for killing game was first enforced, and that before then the leave of the owner of the soil was the only qualification required to kill game.

The early writers on sport, the "Stonehenges" of the seventeenth century, all allude in pretty much the same terms to the setter, and Gervase Markham, in his chief work with the odd title "*Hunger's Prevention, or the Art of Fowling*" (1655), describes what a "Setting dog" should be to be perfect in the eyes of the sportsman of his time. Markham says :

"A setting dogge is a certaine lusty land spannell taught by nature to hunt the partridges before and more than any other chase whatsoever, and that with all eagernesse and fiercenesse, running the fields over so lustily and busily as if there were no limit in his desire and furie ; yet so qualified and tempered with art and obedience, that when he is in the greatest and eagerest pursute, and seems to be most wilde and frantike, that even thus one hem or sound of his master's voyce makes him presently stand, gaze about him, and looke in his master's face taking all directions from it whether to procede, stand still, or retire. Nay, even when he has come to the very

place where his prey is, and hath, as it were, his nose over it, so that it seems he may take it up at his own pleasure, yet is his temperance and obedience so made and framed by arte that presently, even on a sudden, he either stands still or falles down flatte upon his bellie, without daring once to open his mouth, or make any noise or motion at all, till that his master come unto him, and thus proceedes in all things according to his directions and commandments."

This extract is somewhat interesting, if a little complicated, and without any further reference to the "has beens" of the setter, we must break into more modern days, when he is divided into three divisions—the English, Irish, and Gordon or black and tan varieties, and the former will have the preference.

Until well into the present century the setter was not so commonly used as an adjunct to the gun as the pointer, and even the writer of the article in the "Sportsman's Cabinet" said that at that time (1803) it was oftener used for the purpose of finding partridges to be taken with nets than otherwise. It had been trained to drop on point, and thus more readily was the net dragged over him and the birds encircled in its meshes. But he was highly valued as a sporting dog long before this, and there

is extant a copy of a bond, dated October 7th, 1685, which carefully specifies the particulars of a contract for training a dog. This is as follows :

“ Ribberford, Oct. 7, 1685.

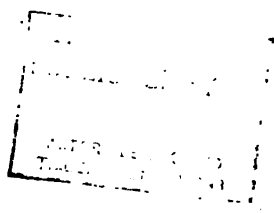
“ I, John Harris, of Welldon, in the parish of Hartlebury, in the county of Worcester, yeoman, for and in consideration of two shillings of lawful English money, this day received of Henry Herbert, of Ribberford, in the same county, Esq., and of thirty shillings more of like money, I have promised to be hereafter paid me, do hereby covenant and promise to and with the said Henry Herbert, his exhors. and admors., that I will from the day of the date hereof until the first day of March next, well and sufficiently maintain and keep a spanill bitch named Quand this day delivered into my custody by the said Henry Herbert, and will, before the said first day of March next, fully and effectively train up and teach the said bitch to sitt partrages, pheasants, and other game, as well and exactly as the best sitting dogges usually sitt the same. And the same bitch, so trained and taught, shall and will deliver to the said Henry Herbert, or whom he shall appoint to receive her at her home at Ribberford aforesaid, on the first day of March next. And if at any time after the said bitch shall, for want of use and practice, or orwise-

forget to sett game as aforesaid, I will at my cost and charges maynetayne her for a month or longer, as often as need shall require, to trayne up and teach her to sett game as aforesaid, and shall and will fully and effectually teach her to sett game as well and exactly as is above mentoynd.

“JOHN HARRIS, × his mark.”

The above is, doubtless, one of the earliest recorded agreements to be found relating to the training of a sporting dog, and as such is worth reproduction here, especially as it evidently applies to the setter of that time, then known as the spaniel.

The varieties, as we have them now, came to be separated from each other much later, but all must have originally sprung from the smaller and shorter legged dogs—the spaniels. I consider it unfortunate that there is so little information extant as to the early history of the setter. What there is I have endeavoured to compress into suitable shape and form, and, perhaps, from the three following chapters, those readers who are interested in the subject will be able to obtain some idea as to the period when the ordinary setter came to be divided into the three distinct races, as he is found at the present day.



;



F. A. Thompson

CHAPTER III.

THE ENGLISH SETTER.

WITHOUT doubt, to the late Mr. Edward Laverack, who died in April, 1877, the present generation is indebted for the excellence of the setter, both in form and work, as he is found to-day, and, with few exceptions, the very best dogs are actual descendants of the Laverack strain. That there is, however, such a thing as a "pure Laverack" to be found now in 1892 I very much dispute. The best strains have a cross or two cropping in somewhere or other. Mr. R. L. Purcell Llewellyn, to whom Mr. Laverack dedicated his volume on the setter, claims a strain of his own, which perhaps has been more successful than any other, both in the field and on the show bench. Mr. Llewellyn has, however, kept it very much to himself, so the continuation of the general improvement, at any rate in appearance, of this dog, has been due to another source. This is from the kennel of Mr. James B. Cockerton, of

Ravensbarrow Lodge, North Lancashire, who, in reality, had his first setter from Mr. Laverack.

It appears that some forty-five years or more ago, the author of "The Setter" was in the habit of going into the neighbourhood of Mr. Cockerton's residence to shoot during September, and he left behind him, with the uncle of the latter (Mr. Myles Birket, Birket Houses, Winster), one or two setters, from which the present strain has, with the aid of slight infusions of other strains, been continued with extraordinary success. Thus they are more or less inter-bred, and resist very much the introduction of new blood. This, Mr. Cockerton has repeatedly found to be the case, he having on several occasions introduced a fresh strain by the purchase of a stud dog. In no instance has the progeny answered expectations. They were destroyed, and their sire came to a similar end. Later he tried a well-known field trial winner, Dr. Wood's Fred W., of great excellence in the field, and by no means indifferent in appearance. The result, however, did not turn out any more satisfactorily than previous off-crosses had done.

However, to the origin of the "Laveracks." We are told that Mr. Laverack first obtained his strain from the Rev. A. Harrison, who resided near Carlisle, and he informs us in his book, published in 1872

when he was seventy-three years of age, that he had been breeding setters for fifty years. His first fancy for them must have been well on to seventy years ago. At that time, and for long after, the pedigrees of dogs were of little value, and, so long as the strain was good for work, and not bad to look at, people did not care a jot what the blood was. Mr. Laverack, however, had found that he could, by a few generations of judicious crossing, breed setters more true to type than others had done.

He was a sportsman, spent most of his time in shooting and in sub-letting shootings, travelled much in Scotland and the North of England, and so became acquainted with the various strains of setters then extant. Two or three years before his death the present writer repeatedly met Mr. Laverack, and a mutual admiration of the dog led to a considerable interchange of ideas on the subject, and on setters in particular. Although he would never acknowledge any cross from the original Old Moll and Ponto, which he had obtained from Mr. Harrison in 1825, I am not quite certain such was not tried. There were strains in the North of England that he valued highly, and which, no doubt, he would find useful for the purpose of putting vigour and size into his puppies, for it is a little against nature to produce in so short a time such good dogs as he owned by

breeding from brothers and sisters, as he did with Dash I. and Belle—the one a black and white, the other an orange and white. However, the pedigrees of Dash II. and Moll III.—the latter black, white, and tan, both great, great grandchildren of the original brace—are fully set out in his book, and, of course, cannot be gainsaid. It is, however, strange that the black, tan, and whites, and the liver and whites, of the same “pure” strains did not come out until the later generations, nor, until actually pressed upon the point, did he acknowledge that a liver and white puppy was the genuine article.

His friend Rothwell, who had the use of the best Laveracks for breeding purposes, wrote him that one of his puppies was liver and white. To this a reply came to the effect that it was all right, and that the colour came back from a strain of the “Edmond Castle” breed, Cumberland, which he had introduced about thirty years before! Rather a peculiar period for a cross to remain in abeyance before it came out, and which no scientist would believe possible. It is extremely likely that, up to a comparatively late date, Mr. Laverack crossed with the Cumberland and Northumberland dogs, most of which were liver and white; and so we have that colour in the setter to this day, and there it will remain. Twenty years or more ago I

saw several of these liver and white dogs that had more than a tendency to the top knot, which was a prevailing feature with the Naworth Castle strain, and in another which the late Major Cowen kept at Blaydon Burn, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Whatever crosses may have been used by Mr Laverack, or by his friends, there is no doubt that such proved extremely useful, and have been the means of fully establishing the strain on a sound and substantial basis. In his own kennel, towards the close of his career, Mr. Laverack was not fortunate in rearing his puppies, and at the time of his death there were but five setters in his actual possession. These were Blue Prince, Blue Rock, Cora (lemon and white), Blue Belle, and Nellie or Blue Cora. The two latter were own sisters, and Mr. Laverack's housekeeper sold Prince, Belle, and another to Mr. T. B. Bowers for about 100*l*. The remaining brace ultimately went to Mr. J. R. Robinson, of Sunderland, who held a kind of partnership with the late Mr. Laverack, and had laid claim to the whole of the kennel; but the three dogs Mr. Bowers bought were sold even before poor Laverack was laid in his grave near the quiet little church at Ash, not far from Whitchurch. The Kennel Club Stud Books tell us how the blood of these setters has been disseminated since that time.

Mr. Laverack claimed for his dogs excellence all round in the field, and unusual stamina; indeed, he talked to me of working them ten, twelve, and fourteen hours a day for a fortnight. That they were good dogs goes without saying; but "Stonehenge" did not care about their work in the early days of Field Trials, for he said they had not good noses, carried their heads low, and were lacking that fine tail action that he so much valued either in pointer or setter.

As a show dog, Mr. Laverack's Dash II., better known, perhaps, as old Blue Dash, was a typical specimen; and from, say, 1869 to 1872, was, perhaps, the best setter appearing on the bench. He had size bone, coat, and general symmetry to commend him, though his shoulders were rather upright and his neck not quite of the best, whilst his appearance would certainly have been smarter had he been cleaner cut under the throat. He was good enough to win at Birmingham, the Crystal Palace, and elsewhere, and in looks was far the best dog that I ever saw in his owner's possession. Another beautiful setter of Laverack's early strain was Mr. Dickon's Belle, and, it was said, equally excellent in the field and the show ring. So far as field trial dogs are concerned, Mr. Laverack mentions Mr. Garth's Daisy and Mr. Purcell Llewellyn's Countess as

the best ; but, although both were fast, very fast, the one had but a moderate nose and the other was said to be somewhat addicted to false pointing. Both were alluded to in the reports of the trials where they competed as possessing the above faults, which Mr. J. H. Walsh considered to arise from in-breeding.

Allusion must be made to Mr. Llewelin's Dan, Novel, Bondhu, Dash III., Count Wind'em ; and Mr. Field's Bruce, and to Lord Downe's Sam, who also went into the Llewelin kennels ; Armstrong's Old Kate was extremely useful as a brood bitch to that family of skilled dog trainers ; to Mr. S. E. Shirley's Rock, who, perhaps, won more bench prizes than any other setter ; to Mr. Barclay Field's Duke, a great field trial winner in 1866 and 1867 ; to Mr. T. B. Bowers' Frank, the handsomest orange and white setter of that time ; to Mr. Armstrong's Dash, sold to Mr. Brewis, Mr. G. Lowes' Tam o' Shanter ; Mr. T. Cunnington's Sir Alister ; and many other celebrities in their day might likewise be mentioned. Mr. Llewelin purchased Dan from Mr. T. Statter at the Shrewsbury trials in 1871, where he won the two stakes in which he competed and the extra prize for the best dog at that gathering. Dan owing to dislocating his shoulders never appeared in public afterwards but proved extremely

useful in the kennel which so long remained his home.

Some of these improved Laveracks are not now so successful at the field trial meetings as they ought to be ; but whether this arises rather from the lack of opportunity or from other causes it is difficult to say. As a fact, those persons who own the handsome dogs, mostly of the Laverack strain, that win on the show bench, do not, as a rule, train them for field trial work. This has been noticed to such an extent as to draw forth the remark that the field trial dog and the show dog are two distinct articles. I am of opinion that the absence of the show dog from the public field arises from the fact that he has not been afforded training opportunities and not from natural unfitness. Of course there are good and bad dogs of all strains, and it is not every dog, even from the best of parents that ever worked at a trial, that will come forward creditably in a similar position, and I am certain that, did Mr. Cockerton, already alluded to, enter his dogs for field trial work as Mr. Llewellyn and others do theirs, the former would give quite as good an account of themselves as the others.

Monk of Furness, one of the show strain and a bench champion, was as good a dog in the field as

ever ran, and at times, says Nicholson, who trained him at Ercall Heath, near Market Drayton, had done better work than any other in his kennel. He performed creditably at the National Trials, though it was not one of his best days. He, however, was the sire of Mr. Nicholson's Master Sam, Mr. F. Lowe's little bitch, Nun of Kippen, and Mr. T. Lauder's Sweep the Green, whose public work was quite as good as any one need wish to see. Monk of Furness was sold to go to Canada for 230/.

Few of these show dogs are, as I have hinted, put into proper hands to bring out their working powers, hence, what may be called, the cross-bred dogs do best. Of these, the liver and whites appear to excel all others, especially some of those that had Baron Doveridge for sire. He was bred by Lord Waterpark, was by Fred V. from Rue by Drake—Rival; Fred, by Blue Prince—Dicken's Belle; thus combining two distinct strains.

These are by no means handsome dogs, but they never appear to tire, have good noses, and are always on the look out for game. The late Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale's Woodhill Bruce and his sister Woodhill Beta I have seen run trials that could not well have been excelled; and both Mr. F. Lowe and Mr. F. Warde have had liver and white dogs of the same strains that did excellent work, Trip of Kippen not

only running well as a puppy, but when an old dog it took some luck and a better animal to beat him. These dogs are, however, difficult to train, for as puppies they are very fast and terribly wild and headstrong. When once finished it is not easy to find their superiors. Mr. Johnson's Pitti Sing, purchased at Aldridge's in 1888, was of this strain, and she ran second in a stake in which each trial had to last four hours, and this competition took place in North Carolina. She ran three such trials, and only lost because she was not trained to retrieve, which all American and Canadian shooting dogs are expected to be.

At the National Trials in 1892 Colonel Cotes ran a puppy called Dash, which was the result of the first cross between a Gordon Setter of Lord Cawdor's strain and an English setter. It performed very well, indeed; so well, in fact, as to win the stake, and make one believe that a combination of the strains would lead to working animals that would probably have no superior. However the later or a continuation of the cross was not successful, and I believe Colonel Cotes did not persevere with it further. This dog had a fine nose, carried his head well, quartered his ground beautifully, and appeared to be persevering throughout, his natural qualities being good; and I take it that in the latter most

important attributes "Stonehenge" considered the early Laveracks deficient. I do not think those that I have seen run from Mr. Llewellyn's kennels of recent years are to be found fault with either as regards their pace or other capabilities. I fancy it was in 1889 that a nine months' old puppy of Mr. Llewellyn's was entered at the National Trials, when he ran over a rough fallow, and by no means a level one either, in such a perfect, natural style, and at such a pace that I with others thought the stake at his mercy. However some trivial fault later on put him out of court.

Some years before this there was a much lauded setter called Ranger, whose pace and nose were such as to make him almost invincible. Unfortunately, I never saw him run, and have heard so many different opinions as to his merits that I can say very little upon the subject. He was an uncertain dog, but, this notwithstanding, he must be included with the dogs of his time—such as Count Wind'em, Phantom, Drake, Dash II., and Belle; with Countess and Nellie, who, at the Vaynol trials, in 1872, ran so well as a brace that they were given by the judges the full hundred points—as near the head of his race, and it has been said of him that when in the humour he was "as steady and dependable as a steam locomotive." During Ranger's

career from 1873 to 1877 he won seven stakes and special prizes, and, if at times his work was not quite perfect, he, in the opinion of the judges, usually made up for some little delinquency by finding and standing birds in an extraordinary and brilliant manner. Ranger was a plain-looking—indeed, an ugly little dog, white with black and slight tan marks. He was bred by Mr. Macdona from his Judy by Paul Hackett's Rake—Calver's Countess; his sire being Quince II. by Jones' Quince I.—Lort's Dip.

An interesting trial would, no doubt, have been fought could he have been brought against Dr. Wood's lemon and white Fred W. who proved himself one of the best field trial dogs of more recent years. Unfortunately, Fred had not a long reign, flourishing, as our history would say, between 1891-92, both dates inclusive. Bred by Mr. T. Webber, of Falmouth, in August, 1886, Fred W. was by Prince W.—Moll W.; Prince by Sam IV.—Moll III.; Sam by young Rollick—Nell; but Fred W's. dam does not appear in the stud books. He was a lemon and white ticked dog, well made and symmetrical, but scarcely up to high-class show form in appearance, his head being more characteristic of the Irish rather than of the English setter. Fred W. made his mark as a Field Trial dog, and perhaps on

all points had never many superiors; although, on his first appearance in 1890, he was put out of the aged competition at the National Trials because he failed to back, and Mr. Llewellyn's *Satin Bondhu* won the stake. The latter, if not quite so fast as Fred W. had shown a better nose by finding birds the scent of which Dr. Wood's dog failed to hit, though the latter was well in front at the time. As is the case with almost all fast dogs, this failing to back was, at any rate in the early portion of his career, Fred W.'s chief defect. He won four stakes outright, the special cup on two occasions, once he was placed third only, when without injustice he should have been second, and on two other occasions he owed defeat to his unwillingness to back a point made by his opponent. Fred W., who had always been a delicate dog, died during the summer of 1892. He left a reputation as a Stud dog so far as field trials were concerned, and several of our chief performers of to-day have some of Fred W.'s blood in their veins. *Prince Frederick* and *Fancy Free* were perhaps the best of his actual progeny both running with great success in the spring of 1893.

Most of the best bench setters of modern times have come from the Ravensbarrow kennels of Mr. Cockerton, who has had them for some forty years, though he did not commence showing, excepting at

a local gathering, until about 1881, since which time he has taken pretty much all before him, especially in the bitch classes at Birmingham. His best dogs have been Sir Simon, Madame Rachael, Cash in Hand, Belle of Furness, Monk of Furness, Ellen Terry, and Lady Bentinck, as with Lord Bentinck, now the property of Colonel Platt, and there are more whose names do not occur to me. Mr. John Shorthose, of Newcastle, has winning dogs of much the same strain; so have Mr. G. Cartmel, Kendal; Mr. G. E. Pridmore, Coleshill; Mr. T. Steadman, Merionethshire; Mr. G. Potter, Carlisle; Sir Humphrey de Trafford; Mr. Robertshaw, Lancashire; and others.

Mr. W. Hartley, Kendal, has had good dogs of this blood, Mr. W. H. B. Cockerton's Lune Belle, the writer's Richmond, and Sir H. de Trafford's Barton Tory being the best of his, and he who breeds such a brace and a half in a lifetime cannot be considered at all unlucky. At Birmingham, in 1892, the first two named, after winning in their respective classes, were placed first and third in competition for special prizes awarded to the best setters of all varieties afterwards.

Barton Tory, when little more than a puppy, made his *début* at Birmingham in 1896 where he did not gain all he ought to have done, for I considered him then the best English setter I ever saw, not excepting

Mr. Llewellyn's cracks and such dogs as Richmond and Monk of Furness, both of which won all down the line whenever shown until 1896. Richmond was the champion at Birmingham for three years in succession, and in 1894 he won the special for the best setter of any variety in the show, and eventually found a new home in Melbourne, Australia.

A statement appeared in the *Kennel Gazette* not long ago, hinting that the English setter was not only degenerating, but rapidly disappearing. Such, however, is by no means the case, and, with the encouragement given by the various clubs and the trouble taken by breeders, this dog appears to be going rather strongly at the time I write. In the public field Mr. F. Lowe's Mabel of Kippen, a liver and white smart little bitch, has never had a superior, and, after doing remarkably well whenever she competed, she finished a brilliant service in 1896 by winning the chief stake at the International Trials at Bala, and later near Bordes, in France, added another £100 prize to the already long list which she had brought to her owner. Then the late Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale retained many good setters in his kennels; Ightfield Tom, a recent winner at work to wit; Sybarite Sam, too, must also be mentioned, and Mr. Llewellyn's still strong team is alluded to elsewhere.

Sir Humphrey de Trafford, at Trafford Park, Manchester, has got together an extraordinarily fine team of English setters, workmen and bench winners. His Grouse of Kippen, a Welsh-bred dog, has done exceedingly well in both capacities; his Barton Charmer is as good as they can be made for work, whilst on the bench Mallwyd Flo, Mallwyd Bess, and Barton Tory formed a team good enough to beat all the other setters at Birmingham in 1896. Colonel Platt, at Llanfairfechan, is breeding some excellent setters, Madryn Earl, a field trial winner (and he has more good enough to take high honours anywhere), being perhaps the pick of his basket. Mr. Elias Bishop, Mr. F. Alexander, Mr. James Bishop, Mr. W. H. David (Neath), and Messrs. Bottomley (Bradford) may also be alluded to in addition to those already mentioned as owners of English setters quite equal to the average dog of previous years, and the entries at the Kennel Club show and at the National Exhibition in 1896 were quite as numerous, and all round of as good quality as one can expect to see in these days of hyper-criticism. It is pleasing also to be able to state that just now increasing attention is being paid to the working qualities and capabilities of the animals, and so long as we retain such dogs as those already named, and others perhaps equally good, or better, that have not appeared in public,

there is little likelihood of the English setter lapsing into oblivion.

The best colours for these improved or modern Laveracks are blue or black and white flecked or ticked (Blue Beltons, as Mr. Laverack was the first to call them, taking this name from a village or hamlet in Northumberland), orange and white flecked, lemon and white ticked, black tan and white, and liver and white flecked. The orange, lemon, and liver or brown, are found in various shades, but the lighter hues are the most desirable.

Allusion has already been made to the setters bred by Mr. Purcell-Llewellyn, and by many persons, both in this country and America, known as the "Llewellyn" Setter. Whether the strain has by its characteristics merited a distinguishing title of its own is a question upon which opinions are divided, but, as to the excellence of the breed in work, and many of them in appearance, there cannot be two opinions. In the field and on the moors they hold their own anywhere; but of late years Mr. Llewellyn's dogs have not been shown so much as they had been earlier on. Yet, when they do appear, they still come pretty forward in the prize list. I was much struck with the size and amount of bone a team of his possessed, which were in the ring at Birmingham in 1896, and this, notwithstanding their almost

continuous inter-breeding. At the same time, in most other kennels, the tendency is to produce small and comparatively weedy animals.

The following interesting description of the Llewellyn setter with which I have been favoured will, I believe, form a valuable contribution on a subject with which the admirers of the strain are not well acquainted :

“ This is a strain of English setter, formed by its owner, Mr. R. Ll. Purcell-Llewellyn, of Dorrington, near Shrewsbury. The late Mr. Laverack, in his book ‘The Setter,’ describes him as one ‘who has endeavoured, and is still endeavouring, by sparing neither expense nor trouble, to bring to perfection the setter,’ and has for over thirty years experimented largely in breeding and crossing strains of setters. In due course he succeeded in producing the remarkable family of setters which now bears his name.

“ Mr. Llewellyn many years ago kept black and tan setters; though he did not in those days exhibit. These dogs, however, although he spent much time and pains over their breeding, fell short of the ideal in his mind of the highest type of sportsman’s dog, and, having moors in Scotland, and shootings in England and Wales, to test his ideas on, he, rightly or wrongly, was fully persuaded in his

own mind that it was hopeless to spend more time over the black and tans; and, after full consideration, he finally discarded them. This conclusion was not come to without long trial and experiment of all the best strains of the day, having, besides the well known sorts, many of a kind not generally known, such as those of Mr. Hall, master of the Holderness, and, above all, those of his intimate friend 'Sixty-one' (the Rev. Hely Hutchinson), which were bred and used long before the days of dog shows for work in the Lews, where 'Sixty-one' for many years held some 70,000 acres of moors. Mr. Llewellyn had his own reasons for discarding black and tans after experience of them for several years.

"He next tested the Irish setter, and in experimenting with this breed he followed on the same lines as in the case of their forerunners, the black and tans, *i.e.*, sparing no expense and trouble to get at the best possible specimens, and to try as many of the leading strains as possible. We find him therefore purchasing for £150 the famous 'Plunket' from Mr. Macdona, and dogs from the breed of the Knight of Kerry, from Colonel Whyte, of Sligo, from those of Cecil Moore, Colonel Hutchinson, Mr. Jephson, and several others. With these he bred, and some of the produce he exhibited, and his Kite,

Samson, Knowing, Carrie and Marvel, were excellent specimens of the Irish setter, winning him prizes on the show bench ; whilst Kite, Marvel, and Samson, were successful in field competition.

“ Nevertheless, after long trial, Mr. Llewellyn reluctantly confessed that, though superior to the black and tans, there were certain peculiarities in the Irish setter which he wished to see modified. Hereupon he commenced a long course of blending and crossing of these breeds with others. The result of one of these experiments was a handsome bitch, called Flame, a show winner, and for reasons which Mr. Llewellyn deemed sufficient, he sold her. The blood of this bitch is still to be found in many of our leading bench winners at the present time.

“ With all these crosses, however, Mr. Llewellyn failed to satisfy his aspirations for a perfect working setter. Handsome many of them were, but he desired to develop certain peculiar field styles and methods of hunting in them, and which, as yet, neither the comparatively pure breeds alluded to, nor the crosses, had shown themselves possessed of.

“ Mr. Laverack’s breed was just about that time at its zenith, and, attracting Mr. Llewellyn’s attention, he hoped that at last he might obtain, in the so-called ‘pure Laveracks,’ what he had been

seeking. He therefore, at a high price, secured the choicest Laverack blood, *i.e.*, that of Dash—Moll, and Dash—Lill. By this means Mr. Llewellyn had succeeded so far in gaining all he desired, owning, as he now did, the Beautiful Countess, and her half sister Nellie, and later on, Mr. Garth's Daisy, three of the most famous Laveracks in the field that ever lived. He also owned Prince, brother to Nellie, a very handsome blue belton dog and a great show winner for his enterprising owner, who, moreover, owned Lill and Rock, the latter afterwards drafted by him and known as Lort's Jock. Mr. Llewellyn bred several pure Laveracks, amongst which were the handsome bitches Phantom, Puzzle, Princess, all great show winners.

"Now, although Mr. Llewellyn thus had the best possible opportunities and means of estimating the Laverack breed, he finally came to the conclusion that, however handsome at that time they were, and in the case of Countess, Nellie, and Daisy, good in some respects in the field, yet that, on the average, the pure Laveracks had too many unsatisfactory and inconvenient peculiarities of mind, habit, and instinct, to fit them for attaining his ideal. This discovery set Mr. Llewellyn once again on the track of experiment, and, this time, with far more satisfaction to himself than anything he had previously experienced.

The result was the breed of dogs which bears his name, and which has scored its mark so deeply in setter history. Mr. Teasdale Buckel, the gentleman who handled so many of his winners at field trials in former years, materially assisted in showing this variety to the world.

“The particular strain which is known as the ‘Llewellyn’ setter is, therefore, a blend of the pure Dash—Moll and Dash—Lill Laverack, with blood represented by Sir Vincent Corbet’s Old Slut, and with that of the late Mr. Statter’s Rhœbe, as shown chiefly in Dick, Dan, Dora, Daisy, Ruby, &c., but, whilst those for the most part were somewhat coarse, withal powerful workmanlike dogs, the Llewellyn combination has retained the size, bone, and power, and added improvement in shape and make, so that the tendency towards coarseness, slackness of loin, and want of refinement, has been improved away, and the characteristic of the Llewellyn is size with quality. That they possess quality and beauty of appearance their show bench achievements have proved, whilst at the same time their field trial record as a setter kennel has never been approached.

“In the days when the feeling for show bench honours was keener in Mr. Llewellyn, his kennel had only to put in an appearance at a show to take nearly all the prizes. For years this was the case at

the two great gatherings, Birmingham and London, the only places where they were exhibited.

“The sight presented by the setter benches in 1884, the first year that the Birmingham authorities offered special prizes for field trial winners, is well remembered by sportsmen. On that occasion Mr. Llewellyn entered twelve field trial winners, viz., Count Wind'em, Dashing Bondhu, Dashing Duke, Sable Bondhu, Novel, Dashing Beauty, Dashing Ditto, Countess Bear, Countess Moll, Countess Rose, Nora, and Norna. Although there were some absentees, the team made a show of setters in itself, representing field as well as show champions—Count Wind'em, a field trial and also bench show champion, for whom Mr. Llewellyn had been offered, and refused, £750 and £1200; Novel, equally a champion winner in the field and bench shows; and that beautiful bitch Countess Bear, winner of the first field trial ‘Derby,’ besides other field trials, and several show prizes, both here and in America. Countess Rose was also a bench winner, and with Novel, winner of the Braces Stakes at one of the National Field Trial Meetings, on which occasion that well known judge, the late Sir Vincent Corbet, declared them the best brace he had ever seen. For these two bitches Mr. Llewellyn was offered on the spot £1000. This same Birmingham team likewise included three

winners of the field trial 'Derby,' Countess Bear, already alluded to; Sable Bondhu, and Dashing Ditto; also Norna, Nora, and Dashing Beauty, all gainers of first prizes at field trials; besides Dashing Bondhu, who up to quite recently had the record as a field trial winner, and it must be recollected that when he ran, meetings were not so numerous as they are now.

"The peculiarity of this kennel is that the same dogs unite in themselves, in a measure no others have done, first class show, as well as field trial quality. There are owners who have dogs with which they win on the bench but not in the field. Others, again, there are, which perform in the field but would take a low place at a show. The Llewellyn dogs, on the contrary, have proved themselves capable bench show champions; yet the doings of the self-same dogs at field trials would alone have been sufficient to place them at the head of the list, even if they had possessed no other qualification.

"Mr. Llewellyn has never, at any time, cared to keep so large a kennel as some other setter breeders, nor does he rear many during the year, a fact which should not be lost sight of when the large proportion of show and field trial prizes which have fallen to his setters is considered.

“The ‘blue ribbon,’ of field trials is held to be the ‘Braces Stakes,’ and, next in estimation is the field trial ‘Derby,’ the latter being a Kennel Club event, and the former that of the National Society. Mr. Llewellyn’s setters have won the ‘Braces Stakes’ twelve times, and the ‘Derby’ four times, whilst running second for those events on additional occasions. The ‘Derby’ was won three years in succession by his dogs Sable Bondhu, Dashing ditto, and Dashing Clinker. On the occasion when Sable won in 1882, three other puppies from the same kennel ran, and the four were placed equal, though the owner preferred that Sable Bondhu should have the honour, and so she was selected to run against the winning pointer puppy for the championship, which, as indicated above, she won. When Clinker won in 1883 something of the same happened, as he, with his kennel companion Duke Phoenix, had beaten all the other puppies, and Clinker was given the honour of running against the best pointer puppy, which he beat and so won the great prize.

“Mr. Llewellyn did not compete at the Kennel Club trials from 1883 to 1893 but in 1894, he had several entries and up to 1896 quite held his own whenever his dogs were running. Daphne, Rosa Wind’em, Nelly Wind’em, Bruce Wind’em, Darkie

Wind'em, Jessie Wind'em and Daphne, being the best of his dogs of late years and not long ago Bruce Wind'em was sent over to the Imperial Kennels at St. Petersburg.

"It should be noted that several leading American sportsmen imported some of Mr. Llewellyn's dogs several years ago, and that their workmanlike qualities and suitability to the peculiarities of American field sport brought them rapidly into favour, both in the States and Canada. The place they hold both at bench shows and field trials in that country is quite as prominent as it has been in the one of their origin. It is a question, however, whether the breed as it is now preserved in America is in all respects up to its original standard.

"It is interesting to state that Mr. Llewellyn has never departed from the lines of blood with which he began to form his breed nearly twenty-five years ago. No outside cross of any sort or kind has been allowed to invade those lines. The various families are strictly preserved, and the strong family likeness, with the peculiar habits and methods of working, and their power to transmit those to others, justify, I consider, their title to rank as a distinct breed, which fact is perhaps more fully recognised in America than here."

From time to time there have cropped up

other so-called strains of English setters, but they have never possessed sufficiently distinguishing features to entitle them to a name or classification of their own. Personally, I have known more than one breed that better deserved a position of their own than some that strived to attain it. In Westmorland, fifteen or twenty years ago, the shooting men in the neighbourhood of Crosthwaite had black setters, not more than forty pounds in weight, with little coat and no lumber about them. They did not gallop at a very great pace, because the small allotments there were not suitable for fast dogs, but their noses were excellent; they required little training, and had stamina enough to hunt every alternate day during the season. No doubt, this was the remaining strain of the black setter Laverack alluded to in his book, as belonging to Harry "Rothwell." This I take to be a mistake for Rauthmell, whose family I knew very well. They lived not very far away from Crosthwaite, where Squire Rauthmell's hounds repeatedly went to hunt, and the two "country-sides" had much in common in the way of sport. I believe that in Wales there was a similar strain of setter to this, which has likewise been lost—perhaps by continual inter-breeding.

Another strain of setters I saw in the north many years ago were of a pale red colour, with a double

nose. The owner said "they were the best in the world," but difficult to rear, and they seldom produced more than a brace or three puppies at a time. I fancy both these families have disappeared with the "statesmen" of the dales who shot over their own land, and could go over that of their neighbour were the latter not a sportsman himself. The surroundings of shooting have of late years changed in the north, and with this change such strains of setters as I have alluded to have gradually been allowed to die out.

There was another valued strain to be found in the kennels of the Marquis Breadalbane, and which I should not be surprised to find that Mr. Laverack had used freely. They were called "red marbles" or "blue marbles," the latter word possessing a similar meaning to that we attach to "mottle," "ticked," or "flecked." Of this strain were a brace or two that "Sixty-one" owned, on which he set great store, and called Balloch setters. They were long, low dogs, with great bone; they had nicely-shaped, but rather short, heads; their peculiarity lay in having a thick coat of, so to say, "fur," almost wool, at the roots of the ordinary jacket—an undercoat, in fact, like that a good collie should possess. No doubt the extra coat, not noticeable without examination, was provided by nature to with-

stand the cold climate in which they lived all the year round. In other respects both coat and feather were soft and silky. These dogs were excellent in the field, carrying their heads high, and working for the body scent in beautiful style. I believe, too, that Mr. Llewellyn had one or two of these setters, and his opinion of them as working dogs was high.

Much has at times been written of the Llanidloes setter, which, as its name implies, has its habitat in Wales. At a show at Welshpool, in 1889, a class was provided for them, but no prizes were awarded. The chief exhibitor was Mr. J. J. W. Dashwood, of Huntington Court, Kingston, Hereford. It seems to me that this Welsh setter is no more than an ordinary English setter, with little distinguishing type, excepting a coarse, hard, curly coat, and a thick, though long, head, may be deemed to constitute a type, which I do not think is the case. It bears a reputation as a close, slow, and methodical worker, and better able to perform the duties of an all-round dog in a rough country than the much more highly bred animal, which is, however, fast supplanting the older-fashioned and more spaniel-like article. From what I have heard by men who have used the Llanidloes setter, it appears to be hardy, is not spoiled by being allowed to hunt covert for cock and

pheasant, and is thoroughly suitable for a "one dog man."

The Anglesea setter, the Newcastle setter, the Featherstone setter, and others that could be mentioned are but local strains of the general variety as it is diffused throughout the country. In no case have they been kept sufficiently pure to justify anyone placing them as varieties of their own. The Earl of Tankerville has had good setters, and so has Lord Waterpark; likewise, Mr. Jones of Oscot, the late Mr. F. R. Bevan, the late Mr. W. Lort, Mr. Bayley, Colonel Cotes, Mr. R. Lloyd Price, Mr. T. Cunningham, and Mr. Paul Hackett, but they laid no claim to any particular strain of their own.

The Russian setter has often been alluded to by previous writers. "Stonehenge" gives us a picture of one, but such a dog has either died out altogether or been returned to the country that gave him birth. As a fact I do not believe the Russians ever had a setter of their own. For years Mr. Purcell Llewellyn offered a prize for him at the Birmingham show, but in no instance was there an entry forthcoming. Possibly, in promising such a thing the Welsh squire was poking fun at the breed, and, in a way of his own, endeavouring to prove to the public what he thought himself, that such a thing as a "Russian setter" had only existence in fancy.

Our English Setter Club was formulated in 1890; following, a description of the breed was drawn up and adopted, and I fancy its foundation was taken from Mr. Laverack's description in his book. However, I with others do not consider the club standard by any means what it ought to be, so in preference to theirs I give one of my own, which in the main is similar to "Stonehenge's" which is so generally adopted.

1. The *skull* (value 5) has a character peculiar to itself. It possesses considerable prominence of the occipital bone; is moderately narrow between the ears; and there is a decided brow over the eyes. A sensible forehead with width enough for brains.

2. The *nose* (value 5) should be long and wide, without any fullness under the eyes. There should be in the average dog setter at least four inches from the inner corner of the eye to the end of the nose. Between the point and the root of the nose there should be a slight depression—at all events there should be no fullness—and the eyebrows should rise sharply from it. The nostrils must be wide apart and large in the openings, and the end should be moist and cool, though many a dog with good scenting powers has had a dry nose. In dark coloured specimens the nose should be black, but in

the orange and whites, or lemon and whites, a coloured nose is desirable, though it must not be spotted. The jaws should be exactly equal in length, "pig jaw," as the receding lower one is called, being greatly against its possessor, nor should he be undershot.

3. *Ears, lips, and eyes* (value 10).—With regard to ears, they should be small, shorter than a pointer's. The "leather" should be thin and soft, carried closely to the cheeks, almost folding from their roots, so as not to show the inside, without the slightest tendency to prick; the ear should be partly clothed with silky hair, but there must not be too much of it. The lips also are not so full and pendulous as those of the pointer, but at their angles there should be a slight fullness, not reaching quite to the extent of hanging. The eyes must be full of animation, and of medium size, the best colour being dark brown, and they should be set with their angles straight across. The head and expression of the English setter are pleasing.

4. The *neck*, (value 5) has not the full rounded muscularity of the pointer, being considerably thinner, but still slightly arched. It must not be "throaty," though the skin is loose.

5. The *shoulders and chest* (value 15) should display great liberty in all directions, with sloping

deep shoulder blades, and elbows well let down. The chest should be deep rather than wide. The ribs well sprung behind the shoulder, and great depth of the back ribs should be especially demanded.

6. *Back, quarters, and stifles* (value 15).—An arched loin is desirable, but not to the extent of being “roached” or “wheel-backed,” a defect which generally tends to a slow up-and-down gallop. Stifles well bent, and set wide apart, to allow the hind legs to be brought forward with liberty in the gallop.

7. *Legs, elbows, and hocks* (value 12).—The elbows and toes, which generally go together, should be set straight; and if not, the “pigeon-toe” or inturned leg is less objectionable than the out-turn, in which the elbow is confined by its close attachment to the ribs. The arm should be muscular, and the bone fully developed, with strong and broad knees, short, well turned pasterns, of which the size in point of bone should be as great as possible (a very important point), and their slope not exceeding a very slight deviation from the straight line. The hind legs should be muscular, with plenty of bone, clean strong hocks, and hairy feet.

8. *The feet* (value 8).—A difference of opinion exists as to the comparative merit of the cat and hare foot for standing work. Masters of foxhounds

invariably select that of the cat, and, as they have better opportunities than any other class for instituting the necessary comparison, their selection may be accepted as final. But, as setters are specially required to stand wet and heather, it is imperatively necessary that there should be a good growth of hair between the toes, and on this account a longer but thick foot, well clothed with hair on and between the toes is preferred. This hair on and between the toes acts as a protection on rough stony ground, and it is said that amongst the flints of some countries a setter can on this account work for a day where a pointer would be placed *hors de combat* in half an hour.

9. The *flag* (value 5) is in appearance characteristic of the breed, although it sometimes happens that one or two puppies in a well-bred litter exhibit a curl or other malformation, usually considered to be indicative of a stain. The setter's flag should have a gentle sweep downwards; and the nearest resemblance to any familiar form is to the scythe with its curve reversed. The feather must be composed of straight silky hairs; close to the root the less hair the better, and again towards the point, of which the bone should be fine, and the feather tapering with it.

10. *Symmetry and quality* (value 10).—In

character the setter should display a great amount of "quality," which means a combination of symmetry, as understood by the artist, with the peculiar attributes of the breed under examination, as interpreted by the sportsman. Thus, a setter possessed of such a frame and outline, as to charm the former would be considered by the sportsman defective in "quality" if he possessed a curly or harsh coat, or if he had a heavy head, with pendant bloodhoundlike jowl and throaty neck. The general outline is elegant, and very taking to the eye.

11. The *texture and feather* of coat (value 5) are much regarded, a soft silky hair without curl being a *sine qua non*. The feather should be considerable, and should fringe the hind as well as the fore legs.

12. The *colour of coat* (value 5) is not much insisted on, a great variety being admitted. These are as follows: Black and white ticked, with large splashes, and more or less marked with black, known as "blue belton;" orange and white, ticked and marked as in the blacks or blues; liver and white, ticked in a similar manner; black and white with tan markings; orange or lemon and white ticked; black and white; liver and white. Pure white, black, liver, and red or yellow are sometimes seen, but are not desirable.

Weight, dogs from 48lb. to 60lb.; bitches from 40lb. to 50lb.

STANDARD POINTS OF THE ENGLISH SETTER.

	Value.		Value.
Skull	5	Legs, elbows, and hocks	12
Nose	5	Feet	8
Ears, lips, and eyes	10	Flag	5
Neck	5	Symmetry and quality	10
Shoulders and chest.....	15	Coat.....	5
Back, quarters, and stifles	15	Colour.....	5
	—		—
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE BLACK AND TAN (OR GORDON) SETTER.

THIS variety of the modern setter had its name originally from the fact of being first introduced to the public from Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Banffshire, the Highland seat of the Dukes of Richmond and Gordon. For what length of time the family possessed the strain no one appears to know, but that it was not there in 1803, when Colonel Thornton visited the place, may be taken for granted, as that gallant sportsman, in his "Northern Tour," makes no allusion whatever to any such dogs. He does, however, mention the Highland deerhound, and gives an account of a somewhat dubious cross the Duke had between a wolf and a Pomeranian dog, which, on being slipped at a deer, tore its throat out. Some early writers, however, have called the black and tan setter the "Scotch setter," and Mr. Thomson Gray, in his "Dogs of Scotland," adopts a similar nomenclature. This is not likely to become general, as the

more popular name has obtained the voice of the public.

According to the late Rev. T. Pearce ("Idstone"), who must be taken as an authority on the variety, about 1820 was the period when the then Duke of Gordon took his special strain of setters in hand ; but as to where they came from, or how they were produced, no facts are forthcoming, and the result is left to imagination.

It is somewhat strange that two such observant sportsmen as Mr. Charles St. John and Mr. John Colquhoun, who, the former in "Highland Sports," and the latter in "The Moor and the Loch," wrote so charmingly of what appertains to dogs, shooting, natural history, and fishing in Scotland, should have little or nothing to say about the Gordon setter. They wrote some fifty or more years ago, and this silence may be taken as an indication that the Gordon setter was not a common dog then. The first edition of "Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands" was published in 1845, and the earliest edition of "The Moor and the Loch" in 1851.

One much regrets that at the present time (1897) this old variety of setter is not to be found at Gordon Castle. Years ago the dogs there were bred to English setters, principally of Laverack blood, with

the result that the valued and true type of black, tan, and white Gordon was entirely lost. The setters at the kennels now, as I write, and for some years, have been all useful working dogs of modern strains.

In England no doubt there had been setters of a black and brown colour from the earliest manufacture or introduction of the breed, and Gervaise Markham, in "*Hunger's Prevention ; or, the whole Art of Fowling by Land and Water*" (1655), mentions black and fallow dogs as the hardest to endure labour. This description must be taken to mean black and tan, but not to imply that such dogs were similar to the Gordon setter of to-day. Again, a writer in 1776, who calls himself "*A Gentleman of Suffolk, a staunch sportsman,*" says there were, fifty years before he wrote, two distinct tribes (strains) of setting dogs, "the black tanned, and the orange or lemon and white." But from other sources we find the latter colour the commonest. Sydenham Edwards (1805), in "*Cynographia Britannica,*" gives an illustration of three setters, one of which is undoubtedly black and tan in colour, but in type it has very little if any resemblance to the modern strain. Two white and orange setters are given in Bingley's *Natural History* (1809), and no mention is made of black and tan setters.

Our old friend "The Druid" (Mr. H. H. Dixon, of Carlisle), who visited Gordon Castle about thirty-five years ago, says: "We beguiled the way by a chat with Jubb, the head keeper, whose seven and thirty black, white, and tans, were spreading themselves out like a fan in the kennel meadow. . . . Originally the Gordon setters were all black and tans; . . . now, all the setters in the Castle are black, tan, and white, with a little tan on the toes, muzzle, root of the tail, and round the eyes. The late Duke of Gordon liked it, as it was both gayer and not so difficult to back on the hillside as the dark coloured. They are light in frame and merry workers, and 'better put up half a dozen birds,' says Jubb, 'than make a false point.' "

Various opinions have been expressed as to how the original black and tan setter of the heavy type was obtained. He was a bigger and coarser dog than any other of his race, and his deep rich colour, heavy head, preponderance of haw in many cases, and strong dewlap, betrayed a not very remote cross with the bloodhound; and, judging from appearances, I have not the slightest doubt that, at one time or another, this hound blood has entered into his composition. A single dash would do the trick nicely, and such would account for the tendency in some of the heavier Gordons to, like the Irish setter, hunt the

ground when at a loss, rather than carry the head high and sniff the wind.

Impure blood such as this in the strain has never been acknowledged, but even admirers of the breed in "all its purity" have not objected to the statement that at no very remote date a cross with the collie had been found useful. The latter may have been the case, the former more likely; and, as bloodhounds were not uncommonly used in some localities in Scotland for hunting the roe, no difficulty would be experienced in quietly putting a bitch to such a hound, and no one be any the wiser. The collie cross, some writers have said, could be plainly traced in the strains of many modern Gordon setters; in quite as many, the bloodhound cross may be more strongly noticed in the shape of head and general expression.

At Tattersall's, in July, 1837, five and a half brace of setters from Gordon Castle, and most of them black, white, and tan in colour, were sold by auction, reaching 417 guineas—an excellent price. The highest figures were given by Lord Chesterfield for young Regent and Crop, they reaching 72 guineas and 60 guineas respectively, although the latter had had one of her ears eaten off by a ferret. Lord Douglas gave 36 guineas for Saturn; Mr. Martyn, 106 guineas for a leash of bitches; and Lord

Abercorn and the Duke of Richmond paid 34 guineas each for a dog and a bitch. This was but a draft from the kennels, for others had been privately purchased by the then Dukes of Abercorn and Argyle; and Viscount Bolingbroke got some likewise. This sale took place on account of the death of the Duke of Gordon, and forms an interesting example of the price obtained for sporting dogs at that time.

In "Dogs of Scotland" (1891), by Mr. Thomson Gray, a contributor gives some interesting particulars of the setters at Gordon Castle, and from the extract below it will be noted that he differs from what "The Druid" wrote, to the effect that the original strain was black, tan, and white. "These dogs were, seventy years ago, of different colours," says the correspondent, "the majority being black and tan, and black, white, and tan. Some were liver and white, and black and white, and lemon and white was sometimes seen. They were famed for their working qualities, and, dog shows being unknown, good looks were of secondary importance, although the whole of the dogs were very stylish, and many of them exceedingly well marked. The black, white, and tans were heavily marked, black and white, with tan spots above the eyes and on the cheeks—the black and white clearly defined but not spotted. . . .

"The black and tans were of a lighter tan than the black and tans of to-day, and often had white breasts and feet. The dogs, on the whole, had a heavy look about them, with spaniel-looking ears, but excellent legs and feet, with wealth of coat and feather, beautiful heads, and well set on sterns. Light eyes were not allowed on any account, nor snipy noses. As workmen they were undeniable, and when the writer in question used them on the moors twenty-five or thirty years ago, they could easily have held their own with any modern cracks.

"The late Mr. Jubb, who had the care of the Gordon Castle setters for many years, could break a dog to perfection; the strain, though, was easy to break, and naturally backed well. They were not fast, but excellent in staying powers, keeping on steadily from morn till night, had good noses, and seldom made a false point." The same writer goes on to say, "As to the original colour, I had the particulars from an old man named Bill Rogers, who was about the kennel at Gordon Castle before the battle of Waterloo (this would be a very, very early period of the formation of the kennels), that the dogs were black and tan, black, tan and white; liver and white (and sometimes lemon or orange and white), the black and tans, which often had white feet and chests, predominating."

Another authority, who often saw the Gordon Castle dogs, and was acquainted with Jubb, the head keeper, viz., Mr. E. Laverack, said that these setters were black, tan, and white, and he did not give them a very high character for endurance and perseverance.

Evidently most of the noted kennels in Scotland had obtained their dogs, at one time or another, from Gordon Castle, as Lord Lovat, Sir A. G. Gordon of Cluny, Major Douglas, Mr. Thompson (Broughty Ferry), Lord Panmure, the Marquis of Huntley, Lord Saltoun, Sir James Elphinstone, and Mr. McNicholls (Glenbucket), could all trace their strains to this one common origin. From some of them I firmly believe the bloodhound cross must have come, for in no other way can be accounted the hound-like type that was far from being uncommon about twenty-five years ago.

Not very long since I was given a Gordon setter, said to be of the best blood, and it had cost thirty guineas in Scotland as a broken dog. Never look a gift dog in the mouth, but its breaking was a myth and its value in shillings! The first day I had him out the parish was not big enough to hold him. He chased everything, and got into a plantation where, with nose down, and a whimper every now and then, he chevied the hares and rabbits to

his content—to my disgust. I was sorely tempted to shoot the brute. When tired he came to my whistle and was “rated” in proper fashion; a five mile walk home along a hard road in pouring rain tamed him a bit, and as he had a sensible look about him I gave him another outing next day, over the roughest land I could find. Here, after a long trudge of some eight hours or so, he became amenable to discipline—hunted and found birds by their ground scent, and worked more like a hound than a pointer or setter. Had he done like “Idstone’s” Gordons crossed with his collie, and gone round his birds as his ancestors would have done round a flock of sheep, I should have noticed it. He did not do so. His head was always down. A third day he worked well within range, answered to the whistle, and his old training had come back to him. He was, however, no use to me, so I gave him away. Now, this Gordon setter was good-looking, and from a strain that bore a reputation of being “pure even amongst the pure,” but his manners and appearance were too hound-like to please me.

There is no doubt a screw loose somewhere in the Gordon setter, else he would be more popular now than he appears to be. With the earlier Field Trials he had much to do, with the later ones next

to nothing. The Rev. T. Pearce's Rex and Kent, Mr. Adey's Kate, Young Kent, and Mr. J. H. Salter's Rex all performed creditably in the field; so did the Earl of Dudley's Claret and Dandy (Mr. J. N. Fleming's, Maybole, N.B.), the champion at Southill trials in 1865, but somehow or other this good work did not continue, and was uneven. Some dogs were slow and stupid; others fast and disobedient, and as a fact I have seen very few Gordon setters performing at Field Trials during the past dozen or more years that I have attended them, and I think this absence must be taken as proof positive that he is not so good as either the English or Irish strains.

Still fewer of them have shown any great degree of merit. Perhaps the best performer at a gathering of this kind appeared in 1895, a Belgian bitch called Venus of Thyrimont belonging to Mons. H. Lurkin. She, however, on her dam's side was of the Devonshire strain. She ran at the Kennel Club Meeting, and after a long and exceedingly well run series of trials she was placed second in the Derby. Without doing particularly well in the early part of the stake she went on improving, and making some extraordinary finds and going at a great pace, she seemed to have the stake at her mercy, and certainly did far and away the best work I ever

saw from a Gordon setter either in private or in public. The same year another Gordon setter ran in public, Mr. W. H. Beevor's Brooklyn Grouse, and he too did well, his work in style and pace, range and nose, being far in advance of any of that displayed at a special field trial for Gordon setters held in 1893, and which will be alluded to later on.

Even on the show bench this variety of the setter is not what he was. Mr. Jobling's Dandie won the first prize at the first dog show ever held, and took the cup as the best setter in the exhibition. Then "Idstone's" Kent in his day (1863-65) won pretty well all before him in the ring, and created quite a *furore* when he first appeared at Cremorne in 1863, exhibited by Sir Edward Hoare. He there won the first prize, and, notwithstanding the fact of his being without pedigree, was purchased by Mr. Pearce for about £30. Although Sir Edward Hoare had obtained this dog from a rabbit catcher on the Hothfield estate, who said it had been suckled on a cat, pains were taken to find out that he had a pedigree. In the end his dam was said to be a black and tan bitch of "Adamson's," his sire Shot by Mr. Jobling's Scamp—his Nell, the latter by a liver and tan dog of Sir Matthew Ridley's. Whether "Kent" was properly bred or not is a moot question, he did not do very

much good as a stud dog, and although his admirers spoke in praise of his progeny, others did the contrary, some going so far as to declare that much of his stock was gun-shy and generally inferior in their working capabilities.

It had been thought that a brighter future might have been in store for his Gordon setters when a club was founded to look after its interests. Such however does not appear to have been the case, and now writing in 1897 the Gordon setter does not appear to be any more flourishing than was the case half-a-dozen years ago. Still I cannot overlook the fact that at that Birmingham show there was the one capital class of Gordon setters, there being ten in the division for dogs and bitches which had won or had not previously won prizes, and most of these were worthy of the highest honours.

In 1893 Mr. F. A. Manning, the very energetic secretary of the specialist club, arranged a field trial meeting for Gordon setters which was held over a portion of the Hatfield estate of Lord Cranborne. It took place early in April, the ground being admirably adapted for the purpose, plenty of covert, birds in profusion and the surroundings charming, although the dry weather and the bright sun spoiled scent somewhat. The few dogs entered performed most indifferently, and the judges displayed a con-

siderable amount of liberality in refraining from withholding the prizes. The trials have not been repeated, and it is quite unusual to see a Gordon setter competing at our ordinary meetings for which they, like the English and Irish varieties, are eligible.

No doubt at the present time, and such has been the case for some years, the most extensive kennel of Gordon Setters is that of Mr. R. Chapman, of Glenboig, Scotland. For a considerable period he has taken pains to produce neat animals, and such as he shows are fairly perfect specimens, and, as a rule, do not display the slightest trace of either bloodhound or collie cross. They are of the accepted black and tan colour, free from white, and in their prime, peculiarly rich and bright in their markings, but some of his best dogs when not in coat look very ragged, and their ears and sterns remind one very much of what we better like to see carried by an Irish water spaniel. At one time it looked as if to Mr. Chapman we must look for any improvement in the variety, but he does not seem to be maintaining his excellence, and his wins on the bench are not so frequent as of yore. Mr. Chapman, who speaks highly of his strain as field dogs, considers them quite equal to any other race of setters he has ever used, but in public their performances have been far from satisfactory. It may

be said that this exhibitor annually lets out teams of dogs for the moors, and his general surroundings and tastes allow him to speak with some authority on the subject. Still, we know that our own geese are swans and our own dogs the best.

Colonel Le Gendre Starkie, at Huntroyde Hall, near Burnley, Lancashire, has given considerable attention to the Gordon setter, and at times has had excellent specimens. The gallant colonel has sometimes sent a dog or two to compete at the Field Trials, and where he has often judged, but I cannot call to mind any occasion upon which he had run a black and tan setter in public. No doubt had he had one fast enough and smart enough for the purpose he would have done so. Messrs. Greenbank, of Sedbergh, Yorkshire, have on occasions exhibited a good specimen or two, their White Heather II. being a particularly smart dog. At Maidstone, in Kent, Mr. J. R. Tatham is an admirer of the breed, and possesses several; so does Mr. Manning, at Norwood, the secretary of the specialist club. Mr. Edwin Bishop, of Needles Farm, Brackley, has always had some fair Gordon setters, and his dogs were good enough to win both stakes at the Gordon setter trials already alluded to, and they have been successful on the show bench. Mr. James Emery, Downham Market, Norfolk, has some very fair

dogs, Sir Hugo and Duke of Downham to wit, so has Mr. W. J. Fox, Orpington; and Mr. F. Hignett's (Bolton) Duke of Edgeworth is about as good a specimen of this variety being shown at the present time. Another excellent dog, though "made in Germany," is Mr. G. E. Pridmore's Knockavoe, who was originally purchased at one of the continental shows by Mr. George Raper. A few fair Gordons are also to be found in Mr. L. Bulled's kennels in Devonshire.

Another very old strain of Gordon setters is in the kennels of the Earl of Cawdor, at Cawdor Castle, Nairn. They have been there and highly valued as long as similar dogs have been kept at Gordon Castle, and for a period of at least eighty years kept pretty well free from cross with the English or Irish varieties. Some of the dogs are heavily marked with black and tan, but none are without some white—tricolours in fact—handsome animals in appearance, and reliable to shoot over. At Beaufort Castle, Beauley, N.B., Lord Lovat has a similar strain, which has been in his family for many generations.

Although these old breeds have been kept as nearly pure as possible, and may be found useful in crossing with the ordinary English setter, especially when work more than actual beauty is required, I

do not see any great future for the black and tan setter. He is not easy to follow with the eyes on the moors, and, as a rule, is not nearly so smart as either the English or Irish varieties, and I cannot imagine why, even his most ardent admirers, prefer him to others, excepting that a team of them match well. The latter fact has been at times of considerable advantage to Mr. Chapman in the show ring, where on several occasions a couple of brace or so have beaten all comers in the competition for the team prize.

In America and on the Continent, in France and Belgium, Gordon setters appear to enjoy greater popularity than with us; they are shown on the benches, and field trials for them are of periodical occurrence when, as a rule, large entries are obtained.

The following are the description and points of the Gordon setter as adopted by its club, and from the facts I have given of some of the leading and oldest kennels being entirely confined to tri-coloured dogs, *i.e.*, black, tan, and white, it seems a pity such are not allowed in the club's standard; nor do I agree with what it says about the "bloodhound" type in the dog generally and in the expression of the eyes. Such a cross has been there some time or other, but pains have been taken to "breed" it out, and in no case where it appears so marked

should a prize be given the dog, or should it be used for stud purposes. However, I give the following chief portion of the club's description because it was issued by an authoritative body :—

“ There seems to be little authentic information as to the origin of the Gordon setter. Authorities, however, agree that originally the colour was black, white, and tan ; the opinion of the late Dr. Walsh (“ Stonehenge ”)—that he is a compound of collie, bloodhound, and English or Irish setter, and that the foundation of the breed was derived from a mixture of these—is to a large extent borne out by the general character of the dog, as exhibited in the best specimens. Of late years no doubt the breed has been tampered with for show purposes, and crosses, more particularly with the Irish setter, with the idea of improving the colour, have been resorted to to the detriment of the dog, both for show bench and field purposes. Probably the pale buff in the place of tan frequently verging on stone colour, and the diffusion over the body, instead of being developed on the recognised points, is mainly due to this cause ; if so, it will require careful breeding through many generations to eradicate. . . . In the best bred Gordons we almost invariably find the leading features of the collie, the bloodhound, and

the setter, and perhaps in about equal proportions, giving what we call the type.

"The head of the Gordon is much heavier than that of the English setter, broad at the top between the ears, the skull slightly rounded, the occiput well developed, and the depth from the occiput to the bottom of lower jaw much greater than in the Laverack or English Setter; the width between the eyes should perhaps not be too great, speaking with caution; the nose moderately long and broad across the top, giving room for the nerves of scent, in fact the opposite of snipyness, the nostril well distended, making this the widest part of the nose; the shape of the under jaw is perhaps a matter of fancy: old Kent had a very heavy muzzle and under-jaw, with remarkably bright and penetrating eyes, in these his likeness has been transmitted to many of his descendants in a remarkable degree. Many Gordons show slight "haw" and "dewlap," a proper development of these is probably the true type; the ears vary considerably, some being long, silky, and hanging close to the face, others much shorter; these are also matters of fancy, and therefore of minor importance. The body of the Gordon is also heavier than that of the English setter, but may be judged on the same lines; the tail is often long, giving bad carriage, this does not interfere with

good work. The great beauty of this dog is his lovely colour, and as this in perfection is in no way antagonistic to his working qualities, great prominence should be given to it in judging. Formerly, without doubt, the prevailing colours were black, white, and tan, of late there has been but little white seen on the bench, this, too, is a matter of fancy; the black should be a jet, not brown or rusty; the tan should be a rich dark mahogany, and should be exhibited on inside of thighs, showing down front of stifle to ground, the front legs to the knees; the muzzle also should be tan, the spots over the eyes well defined, not blurred, and on the points of the shoulders also: blurring and diffusion over the belly and other parts of the dog probably indicate contamination with other blood. It is of the highest importance, if we are to get back the real hunting qualities of this breed and the show qualities also, that purity of blood should be the chief aim in breeding; a first cross may sometimes *appear* to answer, but succeeding generations will certainly show the cross, and will deteriorate in all the qualities we prize.

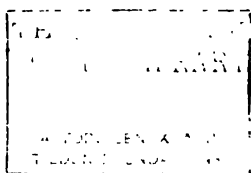
“A splendid intelligence, fine scenting powers, and great endurance are the main characteristics of the Gordon. If purity of blood is maintained, we may not only recover the qualities which some fear we

have partly lost, but also develop their natural powers to an extent hitherto unknown. A well-formed head is of the first importance if we are to develop and maintain that intelligence which is the great charm and usefulness of the dog.

SCALE OF POINTS.

	Value.		Value.
Head and neck	35	Colour	10
Shoulders and chest ...	12	Coat, feather, and quality	10
Loin and quarter	12	Tail	5
Feet and legs	16		
	—		—
	75		25

Grand Total 100.





CHAPTER V.

THE IRISH SETTER.

It has often struck me as being extraordinary that so little is known of the origin of the Irish setter—that he is an old dog in his purity there is not the slightest doubt. He has been alluded to by writers early in the present century, but they have failed to tell us what kind of a dog he was, either in colour or form. I believe him to have been red, or red and white in colour, a smart active animal, full of courage, rather headstrong, an untiring worker, with olfactory organs quite as good as any other dog used for a similar purpose.

And how strange it seems that the native Irish dogs are for the most part red or brown. This may be a favourite Milesian colour, or it may be the result of accident. One cannot say that the Irish red setter, the Irish terrier, and the water spaniel of Ireland, came at any recent date from one stock. Still, their colours, if not quite alike, are

similar, and for modern tastes, the redder the terrier and the setter are, the better.

Failing to find anything of particular interest in the early days of the Irish setter, I turned to Mr. W. C. Bennett, of Dublin, a gentleman who has made the variety his hobby, and he most kindly promised to do what he could for me in the matter. The following particulars from his pen will no doubt be read with interest :

“ My inquiries relative to the above breed have tended to convince me that, so far at least as the Midland and Western Counties of Ireland, Dublin, and its vicinity, were concerned (which were best known to my three first named informants, whose experience and opinions are given below), the red setter was but seldom encountered, and that red and white Irish setters (differing in many essential qualities and in general appearance from the English variety) were well known and highly esteemed.

“ That this assertion will be met with indignant denial from the owners and exhibitors of the red dogs at present gracing the bench and holding their own in Field Trials, I am quite prepared for, but how far back does their recollection carry them? The first gentleman I interviewed on the subject was Mr. Mahon, one of the old Ross Mahon stock, of Galway fame, now over eighty years of age, and son

of the Rev. H. Mahon, of Castlegar, an ardent sportsman and owner of many setters, all of which were red and white, and who held the opinion often expressed to his son, that this was the true colour of the Irish setter. This gentleman's recollection carried him back to the last century (he having died in the year 1838).

"The present Mr. Mahon informs me that in his early days dogs wholly red were rare, though such, he admits, existed, and were considered more difficult to break than the red and white, which, he says, were smaller. A strain of them, called the 'Ahascragh breed,' kept in his family were highly prized, but which, from being bred in and in by the gamekeeper, Jemmy Fury, degenerated into weeds. He especially mentions one, called Sylvie, which he obtained from Charles Mahon, of Mount Pleasant, co. Mayo; she was a big bitch, beautifully feathered, very enduring and staunch, and with her he hoped to resuscitate the Ahascragh strain. Owing, however, to the death of his father, he abandoned the attempt. Mr. Mahon purchased two dogs from Mr. Buchanan for Sir St. George Gore, about the year 1838, which were wholly red in colour, and this gentleman appears to have kept the whole coloured almost, if not entirely, in his kennels.

"Mr. Baker, of Lismacue, co. Tipperary, was a

firm adherent of the red and white variety, and Mr. Mahon considers his breed a particularly good one; they had black noses, and were fine upstanding dogs, selected with care, with good feathering and low carriage of stern.

“My next informant was Mr. John Bennett, of Grange, King’s County, who hunted the county for over 30 years, and whose recollection goes back to the early part of the present century. So far back as the year 1835 he owned a light red bitch called Cora, which he mated with a red dog, the property of the late Captain Vaughan, of Golden Grove, King’s County, one of the O’Connor breed, which so far as he can recollect, were all red. Captain Vaughan had two brace of the strain in his kennels, and all these were red with black noses, sterns carried low (a point then, as now, highly valued), large sized and muscular.

“Mr. Bennett considers the O’Connor and Yelverton O’Keeffe’s strain of red and white setters the best he ever shot over. The latter paid great attention to keeping them pure, and adhered to the parti-coloured in preference to the whole coloured variety, though, strange to say, the last of the race was a red dog in the possession of the late Charley O’Keeffe, of Parsonstown, son of Yelverton O’Keeffe. This Mr. Bennett accounts for by Yelverton

O'Keeffe's admission that he had used a red in his strain, having bred from a handsome specimen in the possession of Long, a coachmaker in Mary-street, Dublin, which had a cross of the O'Connor breed; but Mr. Bennett says the wholly red were scarce, and much more difficult to break than the red and white dogs.

"It is to be observed that neither Mr. Mahon nor Mr. Bennett ever exhibited setters, but used them solely for work. I myself shot over a dog and bitch, Beau and Belle, the property of Mr. Darby, of Leap Castle, Roscrea, which he obtained from Judge O'Connor Morris, a descendant of Maurice Nugent O'Connor (before mentioned), and both these were dark red with black noses, but with, to my eyes, a strong suspicion of a Gordon or other cross, as their coats were too deep in colour, and were, moreover, inclined to be broken, not silky and fine as they should be.

"I next consulted Mr. John G. King, of Ballylin, King's County, who may be fairly looked upon as the father of the breed in this country. He has been a constant attendant and exhibitor at dog shows, not alone of setters, but of pointers and foxhounds. He is still as keen as possible, notwithstanding that he paid for his first game licence in 1837, and his experience is golden, for not only does

he remember clearly the dogs of the past, but he can recollect the names of winners at dog shows, in what he calls recent years, from the show in the Rotunda Gardens, Dublin, about 1863, down to the last field trials in Cookstown.

“ At the Rotunda show he pointed out that there were numbers of red and white setters exhibited. Although Mr. King keeps a note book in which he, from time to time, jotted down names of dogs and incidents connected with them, he seldom has to refresh his memory of either the owner, breeder, or dog, and he firmly adheres to the assertion that the entirely red coloured dog was not only in the minority, but difficult to obtain at all. He quotes an instance of a gamekeeper from Roscommon, from whom he was in the habit of purchasing dogs, bringing him a red dog, and urging him to purchase it because of its rarity. He gives the palm to the O'Connor strain as having been selected with the most care, and kept for years pure from extraneous crosses. In confirmation of his assertion that the red and white were, in former years, the favoured breed, he refers to a picture at Sharavogue, the seat of the late Earl of Huntingdon, who married the only daughter of the late Colonel Westenra (the owner of the famous racehorse “ Freeny ”) representing Lord Rossmore, the ancestor of the Westenra family, and

an enthusiastic sportsman, shooting over three or four setters. Only one of these is whole coloured, and this dog is a pale golden red, with a white snip on the forehead, all the others are red and white.

"Amongst noted breeders in the past Mr. King quotes Mr. La Touche, of Harristown, who had the O'Connor strain ; Mr. Dunne, of Brittas ; Mr. Samuel Handy, of Parsonstown ; Miss Lidwell, Lord Howth, Lord Waterford, Mr. Trumble, of Malahide, Dublin, and Mr. Reeves, of Dublin. Mr. King—when only verging on manhood as a Trinity College student, was even then a sportsman—and can recall Dycer's red dog "Don" (the reputed father of Captain Hutchinson's famous "Bob") and often sought "the Repository" for the purpose of a ramble with old "Don." Miss Lidwell (or Ledwich as she was sometimes erroneously called), had the reputation for keeping good dogs, and Mr. King on a visit to her cottage, near Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin, saw the then crack "Pluto," a red and white. The lady had shortly before been interviewed by the late Mr. Edward Laverack, who wished to take her dog to England to cross with his strain, but the lady was obdurate, even indignant, and refused to lend or sell her favourite.

"Of later breeders, Mr. King is equally familiar, and can recall the faults and perfections of champion

Palmerston ; Miss Warburton's Lilly ; Mr. Giltrap's Garryowen ; Mr. Nuttall's Maybe and Loo VII. ; Captain Milner's Frisco ; and at a recent Ballsbridge show he was as interested in the awards as the most recent exhibitor. He disagrees with Mr. Bennett as to the colour of the O'Connor breed, as he maintains they were red and white. A few words in conclusion of his remarks. He confines his observations to those localities with which he personally was acquainted, and as these did not extend either to the bleak north, or the wilds of Kerry, he cannot say that the red setter may not, in these favoured districts, have existed in considerable numbers.

"Now it has often been mooted, and always met with a most decided opposition from the Irish Red Setter Club, that a class should be given for red and white dogs, and surely if they are more easily broken than the whole coloured dogs and more easily seen on mountain or moor, it would not be a step in the wrong direction to try and resuscitate so valuable a strain. There must be many specimens still existing when so comparatively recently as the Rotunda show, before referred to, several red and whites were exhibited on the benches. There is another point worth observing, and that is the red dogs of the past, and even those shown at the earlier shows were not nearly so deep in colour as many now before the

public on the benches. The Irish Red Setter Club's own rules state that the correct colour is "a rich golden chesnut." How many of this colour do we now see winning at our leading dog shows?

"My next informant (says Mr. Bennett) was Mr. Cecil Moore, the breeder of champion Palmerston, Kate (afterwards Mr. Perrin's), and numerous other celebrities. This gentleman is from county Tyrone, and informs me that in that locality the red dog was the favourite, and numbers of them were to be found in the possession of sportsmen about the town of Omagh, and as he has turned "the three score and ten years allotted to man," and is a good shot, and kept dogs of the right sort, his opinion is valuable.

"That the red and white were in existence he freely admits, but that they were Irish setters at all he denies, as he holds to the opinion that they were imported from England, and were a distinct breed. Amongst breeders of the pure red sort he mentions Mr. Jason Hazzard, of Timaskea, county Fermanagh, who, so far back as the year 1812, kept nothing but whole coloured specimens. The Earl of Enniskillen, grandfather of the present Earl, about the same period had a different strain of the red colour, on which he set great value. Between these gentlemen a friendly rivalry existed, and both

evidently admired each other's breed, as they eventually bred their favourites together, a red bitch, the property of the commoner, visiting a dog of the Earl's.

"Mention may also be made of Mr. Evans, of Dungannon (land agent to Lord Ranfurley), who had a kennel of Irish red setters, and kept no others. Mr. Moore relates a curious instance of a pure bred red bitch, which he used to one of the red and white variety, and which, when mated with whole coloured dogs, in every subsequent litter threw a pup or two of similar marking to the first cross.

"Mr. Moore seldom exhibited his setters in the early days of dog shows, preferring them for their working qualities alone, and the famous old champion Palmerston had a narrow escape of being lost to the admiring gaze of the public. Mr. Moore, finding him rather a delicate dog for field work (though most persevering and with an excellent nose), ordered his man to drown him, as he did not wish to give him to anyone who would use him for shooting purposes, as he had then passed his prime. The late Mr. Hilliard met the poor old dog on the way to what was expected to be his watery grave, and begged him from Mr. Moore. The dog was given him conditionally that Mr. Hilliard would keep him for show purposes alone. The result is known to most of my readers.

“It would appear, from Mr. Moore’s remarks, that a white patch on chest or white on the feet was little regarded, and he has frequently known a patch on the back of the neck appear in the best red setters, and that this is still the fact is well known to breeders. Now, may it not be reasonably asked, is not this some former cross with the red and white variety repeating itself? For, although in self-coloured breeds, such as the black retriever, the black Field spaniel, the Irish terrier, a patch on the chest is but little thought of; while on the toes, and, worse still, on the neck or body, the mark is regarded with much disfavour.

“The Palmerston strain, as most breeders are aware, frequently had what the late Mr. Lort called the ‘Palmerston snip,’ a thin thread of white running down the forehead, and in some of his descendants this amounted to a pretty broad “blaze” on the forehead.

“It should be borne in mind that in early days men kept dogs of all breeds for their good working qualities alone, and I think it reasonable to suppose that if an enthusiastic sportsman had a particularly excellent red dog, and his friend and neighbour an equally good red and white bitch, or *vice versa*, they were pretty certain to breed them together. Be it also remembered that travelling in those days was

not the easily accomplished matter it is now, nor were dogs advertised at stud or for sale to any great extent, if at all. Dog shows were wholly unknown, consequently the dogs of those days were only locally famous.

"It is somewhat difficult to reconcile the apparent difference in opinions existing between the various gentlemen who have been mentioned by me as to whether the original breed was red and white, or wholly red. Mr. Mahon, who may be taken to have a good knowledge of the west, and Mr. King, who knew the Midland counties, and, as a college youth the vicinity of Dublin, believed that the original breed was red and white, but both admit that the red dog was usually to be found, though not to any great extent.

"Mr. Bennett, who knew the Midland counties and Dublin, holds the opinion that the red and white predominated, but that the red was kept in comparative purity in certain kennels, but believes that there were few, if any, men in those days (save Mr. Maurice O'Connor, perhaps) who would not use a red and white, if he were a well-proved good one, in the field. Do not these facts tally with Mr. Moore's assertion that he himself did so on one occasion?

"It is easy to suppose the red dog existed in

greater numbers in the north, and the red and white in the midland and western counties, but that the red and white were imported from England in sufficient quantities, in those days of slow sailing boats, and with no accommodation for dogs, and the stupendous difficulties to be encountered on stage coaches, &c., to establish a breed of red and white English setters, I think, very unlikely. Therefore the natural conclusion appears to be that the red and white Irish setter was the favourite in certain counties crossed with the red Irish setter when the latter was a good performer, and that the red setter was held in highest esteem in other counties crossed with the red and white, when occasion demanded.

"An interesting pamphlet (now, I believe, out of print), has been lent me by Mr. Giltrap, secretary of the Irish Red Setter Club, and which was published by Dr. Wm. Jarvis, of Claremont, New Hampshire, U.S.A., in the year 1879. It purports to contain the pedigree and performance of the two famous setter champions "Elcho" and "Rose." The former dog was born in the year 1874, and, after gaining a second prize in Dublin, found his way to America, where he had numerous successes on the bench, and was the sire of Captain Milner's Aileen, Berkeley Ben, and Joe Junior, and a host of other winners.

Rose, bred by Mr. Cecil Moore, was born the same year as Elcho, and was by champion Palmerston out of Flora, and, after winning two prizes in Ireland and one in England, went to Dr. Jarvis's kennels; and the following is an extract from the pamphlet, which is not, I think, without significance on the question of the purity of the breed.

“ ‘About 1796, the then Earl of Enniskillen, of Florence Court, county of Fermanagh, had a remarkably fine strain of Irish setters, and in 1814 he and Mr. Jason Hazzard, of Timaskea, in the same county, also had an equally fine strain, which they crossed. Mr. Jackson Lloyd, of Tamnamore, obtained this strain from Mr. Hazzard; and in 1819, Mr. Robert Evans, of Gostmerron, Dingamore, county of Tyrone, obtained the family from Mr. Lloyd, and crossed it with the then noted strain of Irish red setters possessed by the late Captain McDonald. Mr. Evans was a noted sportsman throughout the north of Ireland, and his Irish setters were famed for their beauty and field qualities. In 1846, Mr. Moore obtained the breed from Mr. Evans, and has since kept it pure.’ ”

There is sufficient evidence in Mr. Bennett's communication to prove that the original Irish setter was red and white, and that the fine red race were the rarer of the two. Even among the earlier

days of dog shows, few of the best dogs were wholly red, and one of the most shapely and successful of them, Dr. Stone's Dash, was red and white. But the rage was even then abroad for the whole-coloured dogs, and those who procured them would not look at any other, and attacked Dash wherever he won, and called him a mongrel.

As a fact, the red and white dog is the more useful, and the wholly red dog's popularity is the result of the show bench. Those who have ever shot on the mountains and bogs of Ireland cannot fail to have noticed the difficulty there is at times in discerning the red dog, when on a wide range, with a brown heather background, he comes to a point. By no means is it unusual to lose your dog under such circumstances, and if he is not altogether lost, and his skeleton found still pointing when the shooter goes that way in twelve months time, it is through the good sense of the dog, who would never commit suicide under such conditions. A few years ago, at the Field Trial meeting, held in county Tyrone, Mr. J. G. Hawkes lost one of his dogs under similar circumstances whilst running a trial. An hour or more later one of the keepers found the dog on a stiff point. Had it been red and white, such a thing could not have happened. At the same meeting and at others the difficulty of distinguishing

the red dogs was brought prominently forward when they were running against liver and white or lemon and white pointers or setters, for the latter could be observed with less than half the difficulty it took to discern the native animals.

Nor have I found that birds lie one bit the better to dark coloured dogs than they do to those of a lighter hue. It is often the custom to tie a white handkerchief around the neck of a red setter when he is being shot over, in order that he can be more easily seen.

The Rev. Thomas Pearce ("Idstone"), writing of the Irish red setter twenty years ago, remarked that he would not be surprised were they to become popular. That they have done so there is no doubt.

For many years the Rev. J. C. Macdona's Plunket stood alone in his race as the one Irish setter that had ever proved his excellence at Field Trials. This dog, after winning second prize in the aged stake, to Mr. Statter's Bruce, at the National Meeting, Shrewsbury, in 1870, was purchased by Mr. Purcell-Llewellyn, who won the prize for setters with him at Vaynol the same year, and other field trials and bench honours subsequently. Plunket, who was bred by the late Rev. R. O'Callaghan, R.N., and not by the Hon. D. Plunket, as erroneously

stated in the Kennel Club Stud Book, had Captain Hutchinson's Bob for his grandsire; Plunket was a fairly good-looking dog, and perhaps all round no Irish setter that has yet appeared could beat him. But, of course, this is purely a matter of opinion, for it is very difficult to judge of the work of two dogs without seeing them together, especially when there is an interval of about twenty years between him and the best of recent years—Aveline, Drogheda, and some others. In appearance either of the two named would easily have beaten Plunket in the show ring, whatever might have been the result in the field.

When the Irish Setter Club was established, in 1882, considerable impetus was given to the red setter, but even before that time he was beginning to make his mark as a good worker at field trials. He had long borne a reputation for being wild and headstrong, and another fault he had was a tendency to put his nose down and hunt the foot scent like a hound rather than seek for it in the wind. This was said to be on account of some remote, may be fabulous, cross, years and years ago with a blood-hound. However, that he was fond of hunting on the ground there is no doubt whatever, any more than there is of his wilfulness and difficulty in breaking. When properly and perfectly trained, the

red setter has shown us that no other variety of the setter can beat him.

I should conscientiously say that, from what I have observed in his work of late years, and I have seen all the best dogs run, that the Irish setter is as dashing, as energetic, as stylish as the best English dog I ever saw. I believe he, as a general rule, will do a long and hard day's work better than any other breed of setter. His stamina is extraordinary. I shall never forget that big, strong dog "Wrestler" (Mr. W. H. Cooper, of Derbyshire), that ran at the Irish Trials in 1891. Each morning he followed, or rather preceded, the cars, during the long ten miles' drive to the moors, on his way racing over the fields and enclosures, and, indeed, doing an ordinary day's work before his trials commenced, and when he did run his first heat he was even then too wild. No English or Gordon setter would have been allowed to do this, and it must have proved even too much for those untiring liver and white little dogs to which allusion has previously been made in the article on English setters.

Perhaps after Plunket, most attention was attracted to Irish setters by the good work of a bitch, called Aveline, belonging to the late Rev. R. O'Callaghan, which ran at the Kennel Club meeting in the spring

of 1885. She was a handsome bitch, so much so, indeed, as to obtain the cognomen of "beautiful," and as the "beautiful Aveline" she was often known. I recollect how the stake appeared at her mercy, when, unfortunately, a very little rabbit jumped up almost between her legs, and the high couraged bitch, unable to resist the temptation, committed a fault so grave that quite prevented her taking that precedence in the stake her pace, style, and nose, would have entitled her under more favourable circumstances. Later on she won all before her on the show bench, and was not long in attaining her degree as champion.

For many years Mr. O'Callaghan, who died somewhat suddenly early in 1897, had given considerable attention to the production of the Irish setter in its purity. I have seen his dogs, when properly broken and handled at field trials, do excellent work, and the Kennel Club Stud Books tell how successful they have been in the show ring. There are enthusiasts of the variety who consider this strain usually too dark in colour, too deep in their bright redness, which is indeed a lovely hue. I have a peculiar fondness for this colour so long as it does not show any actual blackness, indicative of Gordon cross, the latter so marked in many of the earlier show dogs—Mr. Jones's Carlo to wit,

who did a considerable amount of winning in his day.

Possibly, at some time or another, these red setters were so crossed. Mr. Laverack writes of a red dog he saw at Cockermouth, in Cumberland, which he would have much liked to have used to his setters. He found on inquiry that this dog always produced one or more black puppies, and, although he was fast and had a good nose, he was so headstrong that he could not be broken. I fancy some of our modern skilled trainers would soon have brought him to his senses.

Richardson, who wrote little of the Irish setter, says he is perhaps the purest of all setters, and that his colour is "a yellowish red." Writing more than fifty years since, he remarks, such dogs "are the genuine unmixed descendants of the original land spaniel, and, so highly valued are they, that a hundred pounds is by no means an unusual price for a single dog." This was a very high price for such a dog, in Richardson's time, but another authority on the breed, who flourished rather before this period, says that so valued were some strains of the Irish setter, that on one occasion an estate was given for a brace of dogs. The story of the latter is told by Daniel, who, on the authority of a Mr. Thornhill, says, "A gentleman in the North of Ireland once

gave his tenant for a dog and bitch the renewal of a lease of a farm for 999 years, which, had the lease expired, would have cleared to the landlord more than £250 per annum." No dates or names are given, but as Daniel wrote this in 1805 the occurrence, if true, no doubt took place towards the close of the last century.

It may be right to allude to Youatt's opinion as to the colour of Irish setters when he wrote about 1845. He says they are "either very red, or red and white, or lemon coloured, or white patched with deep chesnut; and it was necessary for them to have a black nose and a black roof to their mouth." The same author tells us that an Irish setter will fetch a higher price than an English or Scotch one, "fifty guineas being no unusual sum for a brace, and even two hundred guineas have been given." It is just as well to make these quotations here, as they will remind the present and a future generation that the Irish setter had a reputation of its own before it came to be re-popularised by working at Field Trials and by its appearance in the show ring.

How the variety has progressed during the past few years, may be judged from the fact that at the first Birmingham show, held in 1860, there were but four entries in the bitch class, and these so little deserving that no prize was awarded. At the same

exhibition, in 1891, there were something like eighteen red setter bitches in competition, and in 1896 there were in all forty-seven entries of Irish setters. The classes for them are, however, much better filled at the exhibitions held in Dublin, Cork, Belfast, and other large towns in their native country. When the Kennel Club Stud Book was published, in 1874, the Irish were the only variety of setter grouped dogs and bitches together. Matters have changed since that time, and the red dogs now get their due.

One of the handsomest Irish setters following immediately after Dr. Stone's Dash was Mr. Hilliard's Count, a most typical specimen, lovely in colour, which was not too dark, but just dark enough. Then there was Mr. Giltrap's Garryowen, who, in his day, had been considered almost invincible. Mr. Cecil Moore's Old Kate, who did a considerable amount of winning between 1878 and 1882, when she was the property of Mr. Abbot and others, was certainly one of the best bitches I ever saw, and Mr. Hilliard's Palmerston, already alluded to, an immense dog, 64lb. in weight, and with an abnormally long and narrow head, monopolised the leading prizes at most of the best shows about this date.

Such admirers of the breed as Mr. Hilliard, of

Dublin; Mr. Waterhouse, Killiney; Mr. Giltrap, Dublin; Captain Milner, Booterstown, Dublin; Mr. McGoff, Tralee; Messrs. Perrin, Kingstown; Mr. J. G. Hawkes, Kenmare; Mrs. Grattan Bellew, Enniskerry; Mr. Æ. Falkiner Nuttall, co. Sligo; Mr. F. Bass, Cork; Dr. Hanson, Bray; Mr. Bond, Londonderry; and other Irish families have latterly done, and are doing, much to give the variety its present popularity. Such has, however, been much more brought about in a similar manner, by breeders this side the water, for the late Rev. R. O'Callaghan, R.N., Wickham Market; Mr. C. C. Ellis, Suffolk; Mr. H. M. Wilson, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire; Mr. W. H. Cooper, Ashbourne; Mr. A. Taylor, Beaminster, Dorset; Major Jameson; Mr. A. E. Taylor, Cheadle; Mr. C. Austin, Wickham Market; Sir H. de Trafford, Trafford Park (there are others likewise) have proved thorough enthusiasts in keeping up the strain.

Captain Milner has been very successful with his dogs, both on the bench and in the field; and his Frisco, who died in 1892, was certainly one of the crack dogs of the day, as his red puppy Airnie was one of the best youngsters of the Trial season during the same year. She won first honours at the Kennel Club, at the National trials, and at the Irish trials, and could not be deemed lucky in so doing. Airnie

was one of the most careful and steady Irish setters I ever saw, and although able to go fast enough when so inclined, she in a great measure lacked that dash and fire usually found in her strain. Her kennel companion Spalpeen, has likewise performed well and steadily in public trials, and was also an exceedingly steady dog. It may be mentioned here as somewhat extraordinary that at the Kennel Club trials, when Airnie won, the whole of the winning setters in the puppy stakes were of the Irish variety.

Mr. O'Callaghan's Aveline we have alluded to, and his bitch Coleraine, in 1891, created quite a sensation by the brilliant manner in which she ran through the puppy stakes at both the National and Kennel Club trials, and was placed third in the open competition at the latter meeting. She had greater style and dash than either of the dogs that ran so well for Mr. Milner, and I fancy could have beaten both of them. She went to America.

Mr. McGoff's Mac's Little Nell, born in 1884, and purchased by Mr. C. C. Ellis, was one of the most wonderful little setters I ever saw. Though barely 40lb. in weight, she went as fast as the big ones, had an excellent nose, and dropped on scent instantaneously; in her day no one would have been surprised to have seen her beat anything that she was put down against. Her field trial successes, when she

died in the winter of 1892, had been greater than those of any other Irish setter.

Messrs. Perrin's dogs, although fair performers at the trials, excelled more on the show bench, his Hector, Kate, and Wee Kate being cracks in their line, but his very successful Maid of the West, born in America, was a very much over-estimated animal. Similar remarks as to bench qualifications apply to the Killineys of Mr. Waterhouse, and to the several dogs Mr. Giltrap, the popular secretary of the Irish Setter, has from time to time owned, and still owns. At Glengariff, Kenmare, Mr. J. G. Hawkes spends his leisure in training his dogs, several of which have run successfully at the Irish trials. His Blue Rock, first prize Birmingham in 1890, and such animals as his Signal, Muskerry, Miss Signal, were quite as good dogs as any man might be proud of owning. Muskerry, the sire of most of Mr. Hawkes' dogs and other winners, I have not seen, but am told he is a valuable and handsome animal, and has shown extraordinary stamina, though on several occasions he has been terribly hard run. The Hon. Mrs. Bellew had a large and valued kennel at Tenchurch, Enniskerry, and her Susi, who won in the bitch class, at Curzon Hall, in 1890, was a particularly good specimen. Mr. W. W. Despard, Rathmoyle, Queen's County,

has at times shown some excellent dogs, and an omission would be caused were no mention made of the many Irish setters that Mr. W. H. Lipscombe has so often brought from Dublin to compete at our English trials, though they may have not met with that amount of success such enterprise deserved. Mr. Falkiner Nuttall, of Cullinamore, Sligo, has for years had many good dogs, of which perhaps Loo VII. was his best. Later Mr. F. H. Bass, of co. Cork, showed some beautiful animals, his Blossom IV. being quite good enough to win the cup for the best of all varieties of setter at Birmingham in 1894, and in 1896 a similar honour went to Dr. Harrison's Bray Princess, who with her brother Bray Prince were awarded all before them at the same show in the best collection of Irish setters ever brought together. But this placement was received with disfavour, and some very bitter correspondence followed in certain newspapers. It was particularly marked that Sir H. de Trafford's Camlough Bloom, who had previously won leading honours at Dublin, Belfast, and other places, was entirely overlooked, a fate which likewise befel Blossom IV. so far as prize money was concerned, who had been at the head of all the setters two years before, and in 1896 she was quite as fit as in 1894.

On the bench the Rev. R. O'Callaghan's cracks

were often seen pitted against those of Mr. Ellis for supremacy, and victory was sometimes one way, and sometimes another. But such dogs as Fingal, Shandon III., Finglass, and Geraldine, are good enough whether beaten or not; and Mr. Ellis's Drogheda, and his Dartrey, Rossmore, Tarbat, &c., formed, perhaps, as fine a team of red setters as ever stood to grouse. Drogheda was an unlucky dog at the trials, making some serious mistake or other, either through his own fault or his handler's, just as he appeared to be winning the chief prize. By show goes Mr. H. M. Wilson's Nellie will long be remembered for her successes on the bench, a bitch whose beauty we have brought to our recollection by an excellent portrait of her by the great animal painter Basil Bradley.

Mr. W. H. Cooper, at Ashborne, in Derbyshire, had for some time, perhaps, a larger kennel of Irish setters than anyone else, and their good qualities have been well known both on the bench and in the field. The names of his Wrestler, Finnigan's Wake, Sure Death, Vicar, and Woodbine, will, we fancy, be found in future pedigrees where a combination of the "best blue blood" is desired; for such will ensure that its possessors can gallop and stay with any dog coming against them during the most arduous field trial work imaginable. At the Irish

trials at Omagh, in 1889, there were a number of extraordinary dogs running, amongst them Henmore Sure Death, and Woodbine (bred by Mr. Hawkes), fast and brilliant in the extreme. The former made a unique performance by winning both the puppy stake and the all-aged stake, the latter including all varieties of setters and pointers, and she was second, too, in the open puppy stake, beaten by the late Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale's Ightfield Rosa. She also, if I mistake not, was third with Woodbine in the braces. Such a performance as this over a rough country, at once stamps the excellence of the strain from which she comes. Other good dogs of Mr. Cooper's were winning at the Irish trials in the autumn of 1892. Here his kennel performed unusually well, Clonsilla, a smart bitch, especially distinguishing herself.

Mr. Taylor's (Dorset) dogs, though successful on the bench, have not yet been tried in public on the mountains, nor have those of his namesake Mr. A. E. Taylor, of Cheadle; neither have I seen Major Jameson's great bench dog Ponto, or his kennel companion Drenagh anywhere but in the show ring, where they appear to be pretty nearly as good as they can be.

Perhaps there have been no better Irish setters running and being shown of late than such as have

come from Mr. C. Austin's kennels at Brandeston Hall, Wickham Market; his Tim Sullivan and Ben Sullivan being as good a brace as ever ran before the gun, and in appearance they are quite up to the best show form. Tim, after appearing unsuccessfully as a puppy in 1892, in the following year went higher, winning second at Cullompton; whilst perhaps Ben Sullivan's best performance was when he ran third at Bala in 1894, his careful methodical work there pleasing the Welsh keepers more than that of any other dog. Following this brace, to keep up the prestige of the race came Mr. T. Humphrey's Bonnie Dan of Coldhill and Bonny Jill of Coldhill both of which proved themselves quite in the first flight, and although pretty hard run took sundry honours in 1895-6. In the latter year Sir H. de Trafford's Punchestown, who had been bred by Mr. J. G. Hawkes in 1892, and was by Ponto—Kerry Kate, made his appearance and met with a considerable amount of success although at first he ran indifferently, which may have been owing to the fact that in the first instance he had been trained and shot over in the usual manner without any intention of a public appearance. He ran at all the last (1896) seasons trials, his first success being second at the Setter Club, whilst in Ireland he divided a first prize with a kennel companion and was one of

the winning brace. He is a show dog as well as a worker and has met with great success in the latter position after making an unsuccessful first appearance at Curzon Hall in 1895.

It is difficult to judge the standard of the dogs which have appeared at only one meeting, Mr. Shirley, who was one of the judges in Ireland in co. Galway last autumn, speaks very highly of the work done by Mr. T. A. Bond's bitch Oonagh of Cullinamore who, born in 1888, ran through the all-aged stake with great dash, finding birds in beautiful form and displaying natural abilities as well as training of a high order. Those who saw this bitch run when eight years old regret that she had not been entered at our English trials, where it was said she might have proved as successful and as attractive as Mac's Little Nell had done years before.

In what I have written an endeavour has been made to do justice to a handsome and valuable variety of the dog, which, from some cause or other, did not receive its due during a certain era, say from about 1840 to 1880. The development of field trials, the spirited and concerted action of several of his admirers, and the formation of the red setter Club have, however, wrought a change, and naturally an improvement in the dog both in work and appearance.

At the present time there are more good show specimens extant than at any previous period of their history, and in work the Irish setter is steadier and better than he was once upon a time. This, no doubt, arises from the greater pains taken in his breaking; moreover, most of the best modern dogs are produced from animals whose ancestors for two or three generations have been highly trained. Such continued for a few years longer, and, may be, the red setter will be the shooting dog of the future. He is fortunate in having so many enthusiasts to look after his welfare, and, so long as they breed for a combination of working capabilities and good looks, abstaining at the same time from introducing strains other than so far pure and tried ones, we may look for a continued improvement in this favoured dog.

I have said that, for work on the moors and mountains, a red and white dog is better than the deep, bright red, which is difficult to discern amid the brown heather on the hillside. But, if the breeders like the whole colour, let them stick to it by all means, and allow their failing sight to be assisted by tying a white handkerchief around the neck of their dog, for something of the kind is certainly required. And the shooting man who has a wide expanse of moor upon which birds are scarce and require a great deal of finding, and the walking

is arduous, can have no better dog for the purpose than a properly trained and staunch Irish setter. Such a one will work hard all day and not give up in disgust about noon because he has failed to locate more than an odd bird or so. Shortly, the Irish setter appears to me to be the most persevering of all sporting dogs used with the gun.

His points and description, as issued by the Irish Setter Club, are as follows:—

“*Head*.—Should be long and lean. The skull oval (from ear to ear), having plenty of brain room, and with well-defined occipital protuberance. Brows raised, showing stop. The muzzle moderately deep, and fairly square at end. From the stop to the point of the nose should be long, the nostrils wide, and the jaws of nearly equal length, flews not to be pendulous. The colour of the nose dark mahogany or dark walnut, and that of the eyes (which ought not to be too large) rich hazel or brown. The ears to be of moderate size, fine in texture, set on low, well back, and hanging in a neat fold close to the head.

“*Neck*.—Should be moderately long, very muscular, but not too thick, slightly arched, free from all tendency to throatiness.

“*Body*.—Should be long—shoulders fine at the points, deep, and sloping well back. The chest as

deep as possible, rather narrow in front. The ribs well sprung, leaving plenty of lung room. Loins muscular, and slightly arched. The hindquarters wide and powerful.

“Legs and Feet.”—The hind legs from hip to hock should be long and muscular; from hock to heel, short and strong. The stifle and hock joints well bent, and not inclined either in or out. The fore-legs should be straight and sinewy, having plenty of bone, with elbows free, well let down, and, like the hocks, not inclined either out or in. The feet small, very firm, toes strong, close together, and arched.

“Tail.”—Should be of moderate length, set on rather low, strong at root, and tapering to a fine point; to be carried in a scimitar-like curve on a level with or below the back.

“Coat.”—On the head, front of legs, and tips of ears, should be short and fine, but on all other parts of the body and legs it ought to be of moderate length, flat, and as free as possible from curl or wave.

“Feathering.”—The feather on the upper portion of the ears should be long and silky; on the back of fore and hind legs long and fine; a fair amount of hair on the belly, forming a nice fringe, which may extend on chest and throat. Feet to be well feathered between the toes. Tail to have a nice fringe of moderately long hair, decreasing in length

as it approaches the point. All feathering is to be as straight and as flat as possible.

“*Colour and Markings.*—The colour should be a rich golden chesnut, with no trace whatever of black; white on chest, throat, or toes, or a small star on the forehead, or a narrow streak or blaze on the nose or face not to disqualify.”

	Value.		Value.
Head	10	Tail	4
Eyes and ears.....	10	Coat and feathers	10
Neck	4	Colour	8
Body	20	Size, style, and general	
Hindlegs and feet	10	appearance.....	14
Forelegs and feet	10		
	—		—
	64		36

Grand Total 100.

It may be interesting to give the weight of some of our modern Irish setters: the late Rev. R. O'Callaghan's Fingal, 58lb.; his Shandon, 60lb.; Mr. A. Taylor's Carlo, 55lb.; Mr. Austin's Sullivan, 52lb.; his Tim Sullivan, 53½lb.; his Ben Sullivan, 55lb.—the latter when in thin condition. Of some bitches the weights were: the late Rev. R. O'Callaghan's Erne, 52lb.; his Geraldine, 54lb.; and his Kinvara, 49lb.; and Mr. A. Taylor's Netherbury Venus, Nellie, and Nellie II. scaled respectively 49lb., 48lb., and 44lb.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RETRIEVERS.

OUR retrievers were produced when the British sportsman found out that it was not good for his pointer or setter to fetch his game, and that the spaniel would not do this so well and quickly as a bigger dog; so the retriever became a necessity. As a sporting dog, he is purely of modern growth. In America it is still the fashion for the pointer and setter to do the double duty of finding and standing his game and bringing it to his owner who has shot it. A dog that does this is no doubt useful, answers the purpose of two dogs, and so keeps down the kennel; but the luxuriousness of modern sport with which we are surrounded will not take the latter into consideration, and a man's kennel is incomplete without it includes retrievers of one or other of the few varieties. Again, in walking up the birds—which is almost the common procedure nowadays in the south of England and other good partridge countries—retrievers are required, and could not be

done without; and such is the case in grouse driving, duck shooting, and for bringing a wounded hare or a winged pheasant out of the covert. I incline to the opinion that a well-broken, soft-mouthed retriever is the best all-round dog a man can have—one whose means are limited, who is fond of sport, and has not accommodation for more than one dog. Let such an animal live in the house and be constituted a constant companion, and there is no knowing how sensible a creature he will prove when his services are required in the field.

The retriever is a creation within the past fifty years, and he was no doubt, in the first instance, produced from crossing the old English or Irish water spaniel with the setter, the collie, and the smaller Newfoundland, usually known as the St. John or Labrador Newfoundland. Colonel Hutchinson, in his admirable work on dog breaking, gives us pictures of various crosses, and in general appearance these illustrations are of dogs bearing very much the characteristics of the modern retriever. Colonel Hutchinson published his book in 1847. Still, there were retrieving dogs long before Colonel Hutchinson's time. Dr. Caius wrote of dogs that brought back the "boults and arrows" that had missed the mark, and also such waterfowl as had been stung to death by some "venomous worm."

Conrad Gesner, in the early part of the sixteenth century, wrote of dogs trained to bring back birds to their masters; but such animals as these were the spaniels commonly used at that time.

It must be taken for granted that our modern retriever, be he either curly-coated, straight or wavy-coated, black, brown, black and tan, or pale liver in colour, at some time was produced from one or other of the crosses I have named. The "nick" answered well, and what is now an actual and distinct variety resulted therefrom—one that with careful crossing produces a type quite as well defined as is to be found in the mastiff, bloodhound, and bulldog, which may be taken as our oldest British varieties of the canine race. With the improved farming, close cropping, increasing wildness of game arising from a variety of causes, and a disinclination in the modern shooting man to fill his bag over pointers and setters, the retriever is in many quarters considered to be the dog of the future. Whether this will prove to be the case or not, time will tell.

Field trials for retrievers were held at Vaynol Park, the seat of Mr. Assheton Smith, in the autumn of 1871-2, but on neither occasion do they appear to have been particularly successful. The usual competitions for pointers and setters took place at the same time, the retrievers doing their work in

conjunction with the other dogs. Birds were scarce, and "Stonehenge," in his *Field* report, said the only dog that did really good work was Mr. Parr's Cato, who took the chief prize on the second occasion. Two stakes, one for aged dogs, the other for puppies, were arranged at each meeting, and amongst those who made entries were Lord Downe, Mr. R. L. Purcell Llewellyn, Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price and others.

Whatever report may be as a rule in a matter of truthfulness, on this occasion it could not be far wrong when retriever trials by its rumour were pronounced a failure; for, although Mr. Price subsequently offered to find ground at Rhiwlas for a continuation of them, the kindly offer was not accepted, nor has anything of the sort been promoted since, though over twenty years have gone by since "Retriever Trials" were run. As a fact, the best work of such dogs would not be seen under surroundings so public, for the real excellence in a retriever lies in its intelligence in finding dead or wounded game under circumstances so exceptional as to preclude any possibility of opportunity being afforded them so to do when actually required.



CHAPTER VII.

THE CURLY-COATED BLACK RETRIEVER.

THE admirers of this variety cannot have failed to notice, as others have done, its gradual decadence as a sporting dog, and that its position is slowly but surely being usurped by the flat or wavy-coated retriever. This, I think, must be taken as another instance of the survival of the fittest. Those who possess the leading strains of "curlies," will, however, not acknowledge this, as they believe their own the best dogs in the world for their purpose—harder in constitution, more shapely, and better able to do rough work than their cousins.

Still, there is no getting away from the fact that the curly-coated retriever does not bear a good reputation. He is inclined to be hard-mouthed, *i.e.*, he may bite and injure the game he ought to retrieve tenderly and without ruffling a feather. His temper, too, is decidedly unreliable, especially with strangers, although, no doubt, there are exceptions here as in everything else. We must, however,

look to the curly-coated retrievers as the hardiest of their race, and perhaps the best animals to use as assistants for wild fowl shooting. Were I, however, to be asked to express an opinion as to which variety of the British dog was most unreliable in temper, I should without hesitation say the curly-coated retriever. He is so as he reclines on his bench in the show building ; he is so with his companions in his kennels at home ; and he remains so when doing duty with the guns at the "big shoot" in the late autumn, when the leaves are off the trees and the undergrowth of bramble and fern have lost their luxuriance.

He is a faithful and useful dog to follow the keeper who makes a companion of him, for in addition to being very steady and easy to command, he possesses a good nose if the scent be not too stale, and is well able to give variety to his retrieving instincts by killing any vermin that the traps may have caught. One big curly dog a keeper owned up in the north was an adept at finding stoats in an old stone fence. With his assistance, and that of the ferrets and the guns, we killed seven of these mischievous little creatures one afternoon, and there were two or three remaining which the dog's owner said they would get the next day. St. John, in his "Highland Sports," tells

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how a retriever of his found and brought out an otter.

Although there are, in various parts of the country, some few kennels that contain the curly-coated retriever for working purposes, he is as often used for a companion and as a show dog. For a companion, as I have already hinted, he is not the most desirable, but as a show dog he excels. His deep black coat, hard, close crisp curls right on to the top of the brow, but no further should they go, his symmetry, clean ears, nicely shaped tail, and dark piercing eyes, that ought to have a mild expression, and so convey the impression of great sense and sagacity in their owner, make him particularly attractive on the show bench. Still, to be successful there, he requires a constant attention, and the cases are exceptional where a dog can be brought straight from work and prove successful in the ring.

The earliest classes at shows for the curly-coated retrievers were at Birmingham in 1860, but the competition was by no means keen. The first prize was awarded to a big coarse dog, shown by Mr. W. Brailsford; second honours went to a brown bitch belonging to Lord Alfred Paget, which, so far as looks went, was not worth her entrance fee. Up to 1864 all the varieties were shown together at Curzon

Hall, but, following the example of the Cremorne management, the National exhibition increased the classification, and the two varieties competed separately, as they have done since, excepting, perhaps, where a special cup was concerned, offered for the best retriever in the show, and often enough a curly dog has won this great honour.

Amongst the best of the race in the early days of the show was Mr. J. D. Gorse's Jet, which "Idstone" is said to have coveted, as that great authority considered him to be the most perfect dog he ever saw; and this strain that Mr. Gorse then had at Radcliffe-on-Trent were, when trained, quite as good in the field as on the bench. Mr. Riley, of Lancashire, who just preceded Mr. Gorse as a successful exhibitor, had two excellent ones in Carlo and Carlo II., and, following them, Dr. Morris, of Rochdale, introduced his dogs True and XL., which, good as they were, never had quite the sagacious, kindly expression Mr. Gorse's two Jets appeared to possess. Still, these Lancashire dogs were, for a time, invincible on the bench, and so closely curled were they that, when a slight fringe did appear over the brow, it seemed quite excusable, because it might just have been crowded out from some other portion of the dog.

Mr. J. H. Salter had some good dogs of the

variety about this time ; Mr. T. Swinburne's Chicory was a notoriety on the show bench, where she lasted far better and longer than is the case with the majority of exhibition dogs, and at Stowmarket, Mr. S. Matthews always kept in his kennels two or three animals fit to show and win anywhere.

Now, in 1897, good curly-coated black retrievers are owned by Viscount Melville, at Melville Castle, Mid Lothian ; his Robin Hood is about equal to anything that one has seen of late, and that he can transfer his excellence to his sons was proved by a puppy by him being sold at Aldridge's in June for twenty-three guineas, the whole of the litter realising fifty-six guineas, by no means bad prices as things go for unbroken dogs. Mr. S. Darby, at Tiverton, appears to be giving more attention than anyone else to the variety, and, as I write, so far as the show bench is concerned, his kennel is by far the best, and contains at least half a dozen specimens about as perfect as they can be found. This was very much in evidence at the Birmingham shows of 1895-6, when his Tiverton Beauty II. and Tiverton Beauty III. were awarded the special prize for the best brace of pointers, setters, or retrievers in the hall. These dogs are almost perfect in their "curl" and form generally. Mr. Henry Skipworth, of Barkwith, near Lincoln, had an almost equally good

kennel, and of a strain that has been in his possession many years. Mr. W. Walker, Preston, also owns several excellent specimens, and it was one of his fine young dogs to which Mr. Lloyd Price, when judging at Birmingham in 1892, awarded a second prize, he withholding all others in about as good a class of the variety as had been benched. Though each of the nine entries brought into the ring, had at one time or another taken show honours, they were not to the liking of the judge, who created quite a sensation by acting as stated. At any rate, he proved to have the courage of his convictions, which is not always the case with modern judges.

In 1890 a club was formed with the laudable intention of, if possible, repopularising the curly-coated black retriever, but somehow or other it was allowed to lapse. However, another club was formed in 1896 with a similar object, but whether it will be able to popularise a waning variety—which no doubt the curly-coated retriever is—may be a matter of extreme doubt. The following is a description of the variety it adopted :

“*Head*.—Long and narrow for the length.

“*Ears*.—Rather small, set on low, lying close to the head, and covered with short curls.

“*Jaws*.—Long and strong, free from lippiness, with good sound teeth.

"*Nose*.—Wide open nostrils, moist and black.

"*Eyes*.—Dark, cannot be too dark, rather large, showing great intelligence and splendid temper; a full pug eye an objection.

"*Coat*.—Should be one mass of short, crisp curls from the occiput to the point of tail, a saddle back or patch of uncurled hair behind shoulders, and white patch on chest should be penalised, but few white hairs allowed in an otherwise good dog. Colour, black or liver.

"*Neck*.—Long, graceful, but muscular, and well placed, and free from throatiness, such as a blood-hound.

"*Shoulders*.—Very deep, muscular, and obliquely placed.

"*Chest*.—Not too wide, but decidedly deep.

"*Body*.—Rather short, muscular, and well ribbed up.

"*Legs*.—Forelegs straight, with plenty of bone, not too long, and set well under body.

"*Feet*.—Round and compact, with toes well arched.

"*Loin*.—Powerful, deep, and firm to the grasp.

"*Tail*.—Should be carried pretty straight, and covered with short curls, tapering towards tip.

"*General Appearance*.—A strong, smart dog, moderately low on leg, active, lively, beaming with intelligence and expression.

The weight is not given in the club standard ; dogs should be from 55lb. to 68lb., bitches about five pounds less.

	Value.		Value.
Head	10	Ears	5
Jaws	5	Nose.....	5
Eyes	5	Coat	15
Neck.....	5	Shoulders.....	5
Chest	5	Body.....	5
Legs	5	Feet	5
Loins	10	Tail	5
		General appearance.....	10
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	45		55

Grand total, 100.



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CHAPTER VIII.

THE FLAT OR WAVY COATED BLACK RETRIEVER.

THIS handsome and kindly animal, so say its admirers, is to be the sporting dog of the future. Whether this will prove the case or not only that future can decide, but, taking a line from the progress it has made in public esteem during the past dozen years or so, it is a prognostication likely enough to prove correct. Here we have a creature made for use; handsome, kindly in disposition, obedient, easy to rear, breeding true to type, and well answering the purpose for which it is intended, so there can be little fear of retrogression on its part. Though the curly-coated dog had obtained the advantage at the start, he is coming in but a very bad second. The causes of this have already been alluded to.

The flat or wavy coated retriever is now pretty well distributed throughout the British Isles, and few shooting parties leave home unaccompanied by a well trained specimen or two, which are, however,

actually more useful in turnips and on comparatively open ground, than they are in thick covert and tangled brushwood. Their coats are fine, and certainly not made for the purpose of resisting thorns and briers, and, so far as the experience of the writer goes, their one fault lies in their indisposition to face thick covert, and in whins and gorse I have seen them actually useless. Still, I have been told that there are some strains that I believe will do as well in the roughest covert as the curly dog. A friend of mine was taking exception to the lack of perseverance a flat-coated retriever displayed in making out the line of a winged pheasant that had run about some bramble bushes; at the same time praising his own dog, with a curly coat on him as shaggy as that of a Herdwick sheep. There requires to be a happy mean between the two, for, where one would not face the brambles at all, the other would, and had to be cut out of them, the strong prickles holding him fast as if he were in a net. On the conclusion of each day's shooting it would take two or three hours to free my friend's dog from the "burrs" that had become entangled in his coat. A hard, wavy coated retriever, clad in a jacket not unlike those possessed by the German griffons, would be useful in a rough country.

The first introduction of the flat-coated retriever

to the show bench was at Cremorne in 1873, but in the first volume of the Kennel Club Stud Book, printed in 1874, the two varieties are classed together. He was a much bigger and coarser dog than he is now. Some of the early specimens were pure and simple little Newfoundlands, and it has taken a few years' careful work to bring the wavy retriever to what it is at the present time. Not too big but just big enough. Our grandfathers said, "Oh! we want a big retriever, a strong 'un; one that can jump a gate with an 8lb. hare in its mouth, and gallop with one at full speed." This is not so now. A comparatively small dog is well able to carry a hare, and shooting is so precise that puss does not run as far as she did, when properly hit. Dogs are not made to assist bad shooters to fill a bag; and a man who cannot, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, stop a hare before she has run seventy yards, ought not to fire at another. And you do not require to have a special dog for that one chance in a hundred.

Such animals as Dr. Bond Moore used to show were of enormous size and coarse to boot, and I am sure would not be looked at in the show ring to-day. If any of the blood of this strain remains it must be in very small quantities. One or two of his dogs had ugly light eyes, which, objectionable as

it may be in other dark-coloured dogs, is more than trebly so in a retriever. The two Wyndhams which came earlier were better dogs, especially Mr. Meyrick's, that was winning at the leading shows from 1864 to 1870. Mr. W. Brailsford brought out the other Wyndham, this in 1860, a dog which was evidently almost pure Labrador, and, like its namesake, has no pedigree in the Stud Book. Still, both dogs were successful on the show bench, so were much used, and their blood is to be found in most of the strains at the present day. Another excellent dog of the earlier period was Major Allison's Victor, which he had purchased at Edinburgh, and he, too, was without a pedigree so far as could be ascertained, and partook more of the Labrador character than that of the modern strains. It is interesting to note how true to type these pedigreeless dogs have proved, and do so at the present time. For instance, Mr. L. A. Shuter, of near Farningham, in Kent, some time ago purchased a bitch in the streets at Bristol, and could not obtain the slightest trace as to what her sire and dam were. Still, so good was she that he formed an alliance between her and his dog Darenth. The result was puppies so good that they won prizes in keen competition directly they came to be shown. Such cases are, however, exceptional, and must not be considered when mentioned

here as an indication that I do not value pedigree, because the contrary is the case, and I would never have allowed any pedigreeless dog to be entered in the Kennel Club Stud Book.

To Mr. S. E. Shirley, the president of the Kennel Club, the admirers of the wavy-coated retrievers are indebted for what he has done for the popularisation of the breed, and most of all the best dogs of the present day are of his strain. A valued lot of retrievers had been kept at Ettington Park long before the dogs of the show bench, and Mr. Shirley remembers black retrievers in the kennels there more than forty years ago. These dogs were much wavier in the coat than is the present fashion. In addition to those at Ettington Park, in the time of the father of the present popular owner, the neighbouring gentry round about Stratford-on-Avon had strains of their own, and these the late Mr. Shirley made use of in founding his kennel. One dog in these early days was especially valued, for he excelled all others in work as well as in looks. This was Nep, who belonged to Wey, then head keeper to Captain Peach, of Idlecote. The dog was, however, too valuable to stay long with his breeder, and Wey sold him for £20, a very high price then, to the late Mr. West, of Alscot Park. In due course Nep was the sire of a dog called Moses, who will no doubt be

recollected by retriever breeders as the father of Mr. J. D. Gorse's once well known Sailor.

The blood of this dog still remains in the best dogs in Mr. Shirley's kennels, and it is more than thirty years since he began to give special attention to improving the retriever for show purposes. This he did by purchasing and using the best dogs obtainable, and by careful selection got them to the uniformity of type and general excellence as they are seen to-day on the benches at Birmingham and elsewhere. No setter cross has ever been used, but one of the older stock, Paris, was a Labrador, still he was a great winner on the bench in his day. Mr. G. T. Bartram's good old dog, Zelstone, used with great success up to the time of his death as a sire, had likewise an undoubted strain of Labrador in him.

I have entered into the particulars of this kennel pretty fully for two reasons—because it is one of the most important at present, and that from which almost all others have sprung, and, secondly, because it has been previously stated that Mr. Shirley's retrievers were purely and simply crosses from the Labrador. That they have but a slight tinge of that breed in them, and are mainly indebted for their excellence to careful selection from old local strains, is very evident from what I have written.

Lieut.-Colonel Cornwall Legh, near Knutsford, also owns a considerable kennel of a strain that have proved themselves equally acceptable as workers as on the show bench. Mr. H. Liddell, Otterburn Hall, Northumberland; Mr. John Morrison, Standeford, near Wolverhampton; Mr. C. A. Phillips, Eccles, Lancashire; Mr. G. T. Bartram, of Braintree, whose Zelstone is alluded to above; the Rev. W. Serjeantson, Acton Burnell; Mr. Harding Cox; Mr. L. A. Shuter, Kent; Mr. H. L. Grainger, Northumberland; Mr. H. R. Cooke, Nantwich; Mr. C. C. Hulkes, Sevenoaks; Mr. A. B. F. Mitford, C.B., Moreton on the Marsh; Mr. P. A. Beck, Welshpool; Sir H. de Trafford, Patricroft; Mr. R. P. Meyrick, Wellington, Salop; Mr. G. R. Davies, Cheshire; and Lieut.-Colonel Cotes, Shropshire, have at one time or another possessed, or still possess, capital specimens of the race, some of them owning dogs and bitches in sufficient numbers to perpetuate the breed should any virulent disease attack and destroy all that others own.

A good retriever, handsome in appearance and steady and reliable in work, is to the sportsman a most valuable dog; still he never brings purely fancy prices like many far less useful animals. For instance, we seldom hear of them being claimed at our shows for more than £50 apiece, and when, not

long ago, a dog of Colonel Cotes' was run up to £60 at Aldridge's, at which price he changed hands, people stared, though those who desired to own him knew what a good dog he was. In 1896 a somewhat sensational sale took place at the same mart, when a number of flat-coated retrievers, from the kennel of Mr. G. R. Davies, of Hartford, Cheshire, realised excellent prices. They were certainly handsome young dogs; they had all been "handled," but could not be said to be absolutely "finished." There were fourteen in number, which realised 380½ guineas; Kismet, a bitch, bringing 50 guineas, and Deacon, a year old dog, 53 guineas; the lowest price being 10½ guineas, and the general average a trifle over 27 guineas.

At the present time there is a tendency to produce the wavy-coated retrievers with an inclination to the type and shape of head possessed by the setters. This is, no doubt, due to the fallacy carried out in breeding for straight coats, which are all very well in their way, attractive enough in the show ring, but thoroughly bad from a workman's point of view. During my somewhat lengthened connection with dog shows I have noticed that, as a rule, the straightest and flattest coated dogs have the greatest tendency to the longer setter-like heads. If breeding for this coat in preference to that of

type of head and character is continued, mischief will be done which may not be so easy to remedy as the variety was to be produced in the first instance. I would especially recommend the judges, in dealing with this retriever, to give more credit for the correct type of head than for an actually and perfectly flat coat, not forgetting that the dog was originally "wavy-coated" quite as much as his jacket was straight.

About judging wavy-coated retrievers. At a recent Birmingham show Mr. Lloyd Price had an unusually fine class of dogs before him, which included an animal called Rightaway, which his owner, Mr. Shirley, considered to be one of the best dogs he ever saw. The judge thought otherwise, and gave the chief award to another from the same kennel. The winner was a much more active-looking dog than Rightaway, equally good in coat, head, and expression, and in legs and feet; but he stood a little higher on the legs, and was not so heavy in bone as the favourite of the Kennel Club's President, who should know a good dog if any man does. Still, on this occasion, we endorse the judge's decision in giving first prize to the more active and workmanlike animal, and it is to be hoped that judges will be consistent, and award the leading honours to those dogs that, from appearance,

seem most likely to be useful in the field. As I have already stated, coats can be too fine and straight.

The descriptions and points of the wavy-coated black retriever are as follows :

The *nose and jaws* are to be considered from two points of view—first, as to the powers of scent ; and secondly, as to the capacity for carrying a hare or pheasant without risk of damage. For both purposes the jaws should be long, and, for the development of scenting powers, the nose should be wide, the nostrils open, and its end moist and cool ; teeth level, and neither overshot nor undershot.

The *skull, ears, and eyes*.—Skull bone wide and flat at the top, with slight furrow down the middle. Brow by no means pronounced, but the skull is not absolutely in a straight line with the nose. The ears must be small, lie close to the head, and set on low, but not hanging down in hound fashion. With regard to the hair on them, it must be short. The eyes should be of medium size, dark in colour, bright, intelligent-looking, and mild in expression, indicating a good temper.

Neck, loins, and back.—Whatever be the breed of dog, his neck should be long enough to allow him to stoop in seeking for the trail. A chumpy neck is

especially bad ; for, while a little dog may get along on a foot scent with a short neck, a comparatively large and unwieldy dog tries himself terribly by the necessity for crouching in his fast pace. Loins and back wide, deep, and strong.

The *quarters and stifles* must be muscular, and so formed to enable the retriever to do his work fast enough to please the modern sportsman, with ease to himself ; the stifles should be nicely turned.

The *shoulders* should be long and sloping ; otherwise, even with a proper length of neck, the dog cannot stoop to a foot scent without fatigue.

The *chest* should be broad as well as deep, with well-developed and well sprung ribs.

Legs, knees, and hocks.—When tolerably fast work is to be done by a heavy dog, it is important that these parts should be strong and free from disease in their joints. Hence the legs must not only be long and muscular, but they must be clean and free from lumber. The knees should be broad, and the hocks well developed, and clean.

The *feet* are rather larger proportionately than in the setter, but they should be compact, and the toes well arched. Soles thick and strong.

The *tail* should be bushy in proportion to the dog,

but not feathered. It should be carried gaily, but not curled over the back.

The *coat* is short, but not so short as in the pointer or hound; it should be close and thick and as straight as possible; a thin open coat, underneath which the skin is easily found, is bad, however straight it may be.

The *colour* should be a rich black, free from rustiness and from white.

Symmetry and temperament.—The symmetry and elegance of this dog are considerable, and should be valued highly. The evidences of good temper must be regarded with great care, since his utility mainly depends on his disposition. A sour-headed brute, with a vicious look about the eyes, should be disqualified.

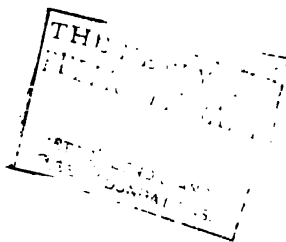
Weight from 50lb. to 68lb. for dogs; bitches rather smaller.

	Value.		Value.
Nose and jaws	5	Feet	10
Skull, ears, and eyes	10	Tail	5
Neck, loins, and back ...	10	Coat	10
Quarters and stifles	5	Symmetry and tempera-	
Shoulders and chest	13	ment	20
Legs, knees, and hocks...	12		
	—		—
	55		45

Grand Total 100.

Little more is to be said about the flat-coated black retriever, and I can only reiterate that a specimen from a good strain is the best all round dog a man can have for shooting purposes. Well trained, he is thoroughly reliable and absolutely steady when he is kept for retrieving only; but it must not be forgotten that as used by what is generally known as "a one dog man," when he has to hunt and find his game as well as retrieve it, he is not likely to be so absolutely steady as when broken for the one department alone. In choosing such a dog, the colour of eyes and expression ought to be considered, as light coloured eyes, hard features, if they may be so called, and a generally unpleasant outlook, in nine cases out of ten denote an unamiable disposition, bad temper, and that which usually accompanies such defects, a hard mouth. Most retrievers are liable to become hard mouthed at three or four years old, especially when they have worked much amongst rabbits and hares, the reason being that the latter, usually strong and powerful, scratch or otherwise irritate the dog, who to stop them gives just a quiet nip. A sensible dog sooner than a foolish one gets to do this, because it is for his own comfort, and when the bad habit has once been acquired it is not to be cured, and is soon brought to bear on feather as well as on fur. In no

case should a retriever be allowed to kill rats or other vermin, as this is another method by which he gets to know that his teeth are given him for biting purposes. However, the training of the retriever may well be left for another volume.





3-11-1914

CHAPTER IX.

OTHER RETRIEVERS.

THERE are other retrievers than the two varieties already mentioned. Some years ago a so-called "Russian Retriever" very often appeared in the variety classes at our shows—a huge, unwieldy creature, certainly more like being successful in carrying off a sheep rather than in retrieving a snipe. He would weigh pretty well on to a hundred pounds, was covered with long ringlets, and appeared more nearly allied to the French poodle than to anything else, and I believe, in fact, that he was a poodle. Usually he was black in colour, sometimes brown. It was said this "Russian" was introduced here for the purpose of "crossing," to give size and strength. When already our retrievers were bigger and coarser than we required them, there is no wonder his services were refused.

The common brown retriever that we see running about the streets, neither curled nor wavy, nor smooth, is a sort of nondescript animal we can well

do without. He is usually snappish and ill-natured, and, when not looking in the gutters for a living, may be found chained up to a kennel in somebody's back yard. Those who own a dog of this kind are recommended to exchange it for a nice little terrier, which will not only cost the owner less in the way of food, but be not so liable to bite his neighbour, his wife, or his children. When anyone is bitten by a dog the odds are two to one that the injury was caused by one of these common brown dogs. An injustice is done to the Emerald Isle when they are called "Irish retrievers," and this frequently happens. There are black dogs, with white on their breasts, of similar type and character. No doubt the disrepute in which even the well-bred retriever is held in many quarters, arises from the ill-fame which attends this cousin of his.

There are, however, brown retrievers that have better reputations, some are curly-coated, others wavy or straight coated. The latter are repeatedly produced from black parents, are very handsome, and equally useful as any other. Personally I have a great fancy for this pale or chocolate brown, wavy-coated retriever. He is a novelty, and if he shows dirt more than his black parents, his coat is equally glossy, and he is quite as good tempered and sociable. The white or pale primrose-

coloured eye is objectionable in this variety as it is in the black. Mr. A. Money-Wigram showed an excellent specimen called Merle, which won second in a class for "retrievers any other colour than black," at the Kennel Club Show in June, 1889, and first in the same class in 1892. It is rather odd that in the Kennel Club Stud Book for 1892 the awards in several of these retriever classes at the Club Show are altogether omitted.

One of the prettiest retrievers I ever saw, and one of the best all round in coat, curl, docility of expression and otherwise, was Mr. J. H. Salter's handsome brown bitch Beauty III., and she was not misnamed. She was so good as to be able to win even against the blacks; her coat remained crisp and hard, and in disposition and temperament she was quite an example to other dogs. Beauty was born of pure brown parents, her sire being Prince Rupert, dam Pearl. Rupert was a well known good dog on the bench, winning, like his daughter, even when pitted against the black variety, and it is rather odd that his sire, King Koffee, black, usually had a brown puppy in each litter when mated with Pearl. Rupert, up to the time he was ten years of age, was able to undergo a day's hard work in the Essex marshes, would plunge into the water in the coldest weather, go into the sea under any conditions,

and retrieve a jack snipe as tenderly as a cat would carry her kitten. This is no doubt a useful sort of dog to have. The strain deserved being perpetuated, and it is much to be regretted that Beauty's owner was unable to obtain any puppies from her.

There is supposed to be a Norfolk retriever, but this is no special strain, being black, brown, black and tan, or any other colour; an undoubted cross between an ordinary field spaniel and some other retriever. Such cross-bred dogs are useful on the "Broads" when the shooting season is on, and, being hardy, are, when trained, perhaps better adapted for wildfowl shooting than the more attractive and better cared for varieties, the popular idols of the sportsman of the present day.

Quite recently an interesting correspondence appeared in the *Field* about Labrador retrievers, a variety which appears to have been particularly popular with shooting men. However, the difficulty of obtaining a change of blood seems to have been not easy to surmount, and crosses were introduced which, some people aver, has not been to the advantage of the modern production. Of the real article Mr. J. Keress, head gamekeeper to the Duke of Buccleuch, wrote as follows:

"Sixty or seventy years ago there was a consider-

able trade between Poole, in Dorsetshire, and Labrador; and it is a fact that it was by these trading vessels that the first Labrador dogs were brought to this country; and that excellent sportsman, the then Earl of Malmesbury, became the possessor of some of them. So highly was he pleased with their work, especially in water, that he kept the breed up till his death. About the same time, or perhaps a little later, the late Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Home (who died in 1841), and Lord John Scott, imported some of the variety from Labrador. They were kept pure for many years, but the difficulty of getting fresh blood arose, so they became crossed in and out with other breeds, especially with the flat-coated retrievers, and Tweed water spaniels. There are even at present few retrievers on the borders of England and Scotland that have not a dash of Labrador in them. It is said that one of the dogs imported by Lord John Scott jumped overboard on the voyage, when there was a bit of sea on, and swam for about two hours before being picked up. Not a bad performance.

“In course of conversation with old James Craw (now eighty years of age), whom the writer met not long since, and who was for many years keeper at Hirsell and Netherby, and I believe knows more

about Labrador dogs than any living man, he described the old strains as rather larger than the modern Labrador, and said that the head should be flattish and long. The ears should be set well up on the head, but not rising above the 'candle,' and should lie close to the cheeks; they should be rather small and V-shaped. The eye should be black, and not very large (neither hazel nor grey colour being correct). The roof of the mouth should be black, and the neck rather strong. The legs should be straight, the feet fairly round, and the ribs well sprung. They should be fairly strong in the loins, with thighs well let down. The tail should be straight and strong, like that of an otter, should have no fringe, and should not on any account be curled. A strong hard straight coat without wave or curl, and a thick under coat, colour mostly black, are essential marks of purity; but some of the old strain had brindled legs, and yellow-coloured dogs were sometimes seen. When asked about the wriggling motion which some of them had when moving, he said that it was more from defective make in odd specimens than anything else; and as to their having more webbing in the feet than other breeds, he did not think there was much in it. In giving his opinion as to work, Mr. Craw said 'I have tried all kinds of retrievers on all kinds of game, and

for sagacity, stamina, perseverance, quickness, and nose, none can come up to the Labradors. The only fault that I had to find with some of them was that they were a bit hard in the mouth; and if I had my life as a keeper to go over again, I would prefer Labradors to any other breed of retrievers.'

"This is, indeed, a good character from such a veteran. To this excellent description, I can add nothing further than that I consider Labrador dogs should stand $21\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $22\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the shoulder, and bitches 1 in. or so less. The weight of dogs from 58 lb. to 64 lb.; bitches considerably less. Lieut.-Colonel Hawker, in his great work on shooting, published in 1830, writing about retrievers, refers to Newfoundlands thus:—'Here we are a little in the dark. Every canine brute that is nearly as big as a jackass, and as hairy as a bear, is denominated a fine Newfoundland dog. Very different, however, is both the proper Labrador and the St. John's breed of these animals; at least, many characteristic points are required to distinguish them. The one is very large, strong in limb, rough haired, small in the head, and carries his tail very high. The other, by far the best for any kind of shooting, is oftener black than any other colour, and scarcely larger than a pointer. He is made rather long in the head and nose, pretty deep in the chest, very fine in legs, has

short or smooth hair, does not carry his tail so much curled as the other, and is extremely quick and active in running, swimming, or fighting. The St. John's breed of these dogs is chiefly used on their native coast by fishermen. Their sense of smelling is scarcely to be credited ; and their discrimination of scent in following a wounded pheasant through a whole covert full of game, or a pinioned wildfowl through a furze brake or a warren of rabbits, appears almost impossible. The real Newfoundland dog may be broken to any kind of shooting. For finding wounded game there is not his equal in the canine race ; and he is a *sine quâ non* in the general pursuit of wildfowl. Poole was of late years the best place to buy Newfoundland dogs, either just imported or broken in ; but now they have become much more scarce, owing (the sailors observe) to the strictness of these — tax-gatherers.'

" Colonel Hawker goes on to say that he ' should always recommend buying these dogs ready broken from the fowlers, who teach them everything almost, by the process of half starving them ; and by the time they are well trained, the chances are that they have got over the distemper, with which this species in particular is sometimes carried beyond recovery.' He adds, ' If you want to make a Newfoundland dog do what you wish, you must encourage him, and

use gentle means, or he will turn sulky ; but to deter him from any fault, you must rate or beat him.'

"Mr. Charles St. John in his 'Wild Sports'—a new edition of which was published in 1872 (others have followed) — chapter xiv., writes : 'Opposite one window of the room I am in at present is a young Newfoundland bitch, which is being educated as a retriever.' In the same chapter Mr. St. John remarks : 'In choosing a young dog for a retriever, it is a great point to fix upon one whose ancestors have been in the same line of business. Skill and inclination to become a good retriever are hereditary, and one come of good parents scarcely requires any breaking, taking to it naturally as soon as he can run about. It is almost impossible to make some dogs useful in their way, no teaching will do it unless there be a natural inclination, a first-rate retriever. *Nascitur non fit.* You may break almost any dog to carry a rabbit or a bird, but it is a different thing entirely to retrieve satisfactorily or to be uniformly correct in distinguishing, and sticking, to the scent of an animal which is wounded.'

"In this, we have the confusion between the Newfoundland (as a general term) and the Labrador. When the writer entered on his present situation, fifteen years ago, there were few retrievers on this estate, and these of no particular breed. And more

being required, it was resolved to go back to the old breed. A brace of Labrador dog puppies and a bitch were got from the late Lord Malmesbury, and another bitch from Lord Ruthven, and by the use of dogs from the kennels of the Duke of Hamilton, Lord Grimston (now Earl of Verulam), Sir F. Graham, and Mr. Montagu Guest, a kennel of excellent working Labradors has been established here. The best we have ever had here was Avon, from Lord Malmsbury's kennel. He was broken by James Moffat, now head keeper to the Duke of Sutherland at Dunrobin, and a better dog never ran; either for grouse, amongst partridges in rough turnips, or in covert shooting he was equally at home with all, and has left an indelible mark in the character of the dogs; indeed, all are good specimens of the Labrador breed, and first-rate in the field.

"I think that the great forte of Labradors is their perseverance, stamina, and splendid scenting powers; and it is marvellous to see the jaunty way these Labrador's come home at the end of a week's hard work of very long days. Correct their little faults, give them plenty of work, and they soon know all that is required of them. Indeed, the more work you give them, the better they like it.

"If I mistake not, most of the Labradors in this

country are descended from Lord Malmsbury's stock, and from the dogs to which I have referred before, as having been imported by the Duke of Buccleuch and the Earl of Home. Amongst the former were Brandy, Moss and Drake, about 1840, and Nell about 1848, located at Bowhill, and Jack, Drake and Nell, at Hirsel about the same dates. A dog, Sailor, which came here from Lord Verulam's two years ago, is descended from the Netherby Boatswain and Keilder, the latter of which has been referred to by one of your correspondents. Both were bred from the above-mentioned, as having been imported for Bowhill and The Hirsel. It is therefore evident that the great trouble in keeping this breed up to a good standard is the difficulty in obtaining fresh blood; and it is doubtful if fresh blood of anything like a pure strain can be got in Labrador. I have commissioned several people trading to that country, but they have all failed to find me anything like that which I require."

Mr. Kerss alludes to a Newfoundland dog mentioned in "Highland Sports." With regard to that dog a correspondent of the *Field*, a relative of the author, says :

"This dog was obtained and imported direct from Labrador by a friend for Mr. St. John, and broken in by Mr. St. John himself. Body long and low,

with very deep chest ; tail carried low, and never curled over back ; head very broad, rather short in proportion to breadth ; eyes set wide apart, large, full and deep hazel, very gentle and full of expression, prominent and not sunken ; legs very well set on and very strong ; feet round and partially webbed between toes ; colour black, lower part of legs showing a tan colour with white star on chest ; temper perfect in every way ; coat very heavy and wavy, soft and silky, with an undercoat of down. I have never seen a dog equal to him in the water ; he seemed to float in it, and could remain in it for any length of time, and after coming out the water seemed to run off, and he got dry quicker than any dog I have ever seen. He was a most intelligent dog. My father found him very easy to break in, and he was a perfect retriever in every way. Once having seen a true Labrador, there could be no chance of mistaking the 'small' Labrador for the large Newfoundland, as they are perfectly different. Weight and height I cannot recollect. The former was considerable, as he was very strongly made, and had a very wide straight back."

But, after all, there are almost all sizes and conditions of retrievers. There were trials of water-dogs arranged in connection with the Maidstone Show in May, 1876, and here many varieties

competed, including Newfoundlands. It was, however, acknowledged on all hands that by far the best work, in retrieving, diving, and swimming, was performed by a black and white retriever, semi-curly in coat, and one that, in the show ring, no judge would have looked at a second time. Still, it beat such known cracks as the belauded Newfoundland Theodore Nero, and easily took the first prize. The dog was Mr. T. Cole's Nero.

John Colquhoun, in his "Moor and the Loch," descants in praiseworthy terms of his wildfowl retriever, that was a cross between a water spaniel and a terrier. In appearance not unlike a modern Airedale terrier, it was, doubtless, one of the most useful dogs ever bred, and in a boat would do better than a larger and curlier animal, as he would bring less water in with him when retrieving his master's ducks. Such dogs are, however, liable to be hard-mouthed; still, I have myself owned terriers, and have one now—an Irishman—that will carry an egg in a cup without breaking either, or a piece of tissue paper without soiling it in the least. But such dogs as these have taken naturally to their work, and no amount of training would persuade or teach them to do what they like to perform of their own accord.

One of the best retrievers I ever owned was a

sorry-looking customer—a cross between a badly-bred collie dog and an illegitimate retriever slut. His curly tail would have been a credit to an Esquimaux. But a dog does not carry a bird or a hare with his stern, nor does his intelligence lie therein. Although this dog “Dick” was not more than forty pounds weight, and had a small head and jaw, he could carry two rabbits easily. This he did often enough when I happened to be shooting with a friend, and a couple of rabbits had been stopped simultaneously by smart first barrels. Dick was so jealous that he persisted in bringing both to his master.

To prove the general uses an intelligent, well-trained retriever may be put to, it may not be out of place to mention that quite recently a very mongrel-looking specimen of the breed figured in a most interesting fashion in a London police-court. A man was charged with having sundry umbrellas in his possession of which he could give no satisfactory account. It was alleged that he had trained his dog to snatch such articles from the hands of unsuspecting ladies, make off with his spoil, following a light cart, in which the defendant and his wife were seated. In due course the purloined article was taken from the dog by its owner, who was at last detected in his nefarious practices, appre-

hended, and charged, as stated. Eventually the case against him was dismissed. I am told that the dog did the trick well; still, it is scarcely right to train any creature to such a dishonest practice.

Then about the same time another retriever saved a child from drowning in the Thames, the owner, unable to swim himself, sending in his dog to the rescue of the struggling infant, who had fallen off the tow-path, and was being washed away by the receding tide. But stories such as these can be made to order, and, as a fact, a good retriever dog will bring anything out of the water which he is sent in to fetch, even to the extent of supporting an object much heavier than himself.

Not long ago an interesting presentation took place at Cardiff, the captain of a Liverpool steam ship being presented with the bronze medal of the Board of Trade for saving life, under the following circumstances. A boat was capsized when leaving a wreck, the occupants being thrown into the heavy sea; Captain Nickels twice swam out into the surf and saved four men from drowning. But he was assisted greatly by a retriever dog, who later, when his master, Mr. Pengelly, who had been assisting in the rescue, was about exhausted and struggling in the water, seized him by the collar and brought him safely to land, otherwise he would have lost his life.

The dog was presented with a new collar, which he well deserved.

The above is not the only retriever which has been presented with a new collar, for at a recent meeting of the members of the Amalgamated Society of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, the secretary placed a silver collar around the neck of a retriever dog known as Roger, owned by Mr. W. T. Court, of Stroud. This dog had in reality saved the lives of the captain and mate of the barge *Eliza*, which foundered in Northfleet Hope on September 23rd, 1896. The vessel sprang a leak when the two men in charge were asleep in the cabin. The dog, when the water was flowing into the hold and the swamping of the boat imminent, began to bark and to scratch at the cabin door, awakening the men, who were just able to escape before the barge foundered. The silver collar had principally been subscribed for by the members of the Sailing Barge branch of the society.

In many deer forests in Scotland retrievers are used in connection with deer stalking, when they are found to be more useful than the ordinary deerhound in bringing to bay a wounded stag. Indeed, a good-tempered dog of the retriever kind, when nicely trained, is a most useful animal, but when kept as a watch dog chained to a barrel in the backyard, or

allowed to follow the gutter for a livelihood, he is treacherous in the extreme, and as such to be avoided.

If you require a retriever for show purposes, buy one to answer your requirements ; but, if such a dog is required for work, either by land or water or both, do not mind what colour or shape he may be, so long as his character for intelligence and tenderness be satisfactory. Beware of the hard-mouth, of that cold unlovable face and light yellow eye that denote ill-nature and querulousness which in the end will lead to mischief. You, perhaps, will not be able to get hold of such dogs as two or three "H. H." so pleasantly mentions in his practical and valuable work, "The Scientific Education of Dogs for the Gun." One that broke from the bush the bough upon which the lost fly cast hung, and ran eighty yards down stream to break the ice in order that the wounded duck could come to the hole to breathe, and so be caught ! Colonel Hutchinson tells us of another retriever that was in the habit of acting as "whipper-in" where the spaniels were concerned, seizing any dog of the team in his mouth and giving it a good shaking for not "down charging" when required, or for rushing in front of the remainder of the team, with which it worked, and trying to demolish the wounded pheasants.

Retrievers that perform such feats as the above are not of every day occurrence, and are only to be made by constant companionship with an owner who understands their every movement, and can read what is passing in their minds by looking into their eyes.

CHAPTER X.

THE SPANIELS.

Dog shows, and the consequent breeding for so-called fancy points, have completely altered the character of our English spaniels—at least, of a majority of those we see winning in the rings nowadays. Such are, as a rule, quite a different article to the animal old painters placed upon their canvases, and which writers of previous generations described in the pages of their volumes.

There is no doubt that the spaniel, as he is generally known, preceded the setter, who was produced from him, and was trained to “sett” game many years before the pointer came to be introduced to this country. It has been said both came from Spain originally, a country that was also stated to be the home of the British bulldog. Surely the land of wines and bull fights may be deemed fortunate in obtaining the reputation of being the original manufacturer of such valuable animals.

Juliana Barnes, or Berners, wrote of spaniels in

1486, so did Dr. Keyes, or Caius ; and later, in 1677, Nicholas Cox, in his "Gentleman's Recreation," copied what both his predecessors had said about them, and added what remarks Gervase Markham had made on the same subject. Then we must not forget all Aldrovandus put in print early in the sixteenth century, and the engravings he gave of sundry varieties of the Spanish dog, which are described in a preceding chapter on the setter. One of these he called "pantherius," because it was spotted, *i.e.*, more or less ticked, as are many of the handsomer setters and spaniels of the present day.

In Nicholas Cox's time, and earlier, the spaniel was in great measure used as an assistance in hawking, and he says : "how necessary a thing it is to falconry I think nobody need question, as well as to spring and retrieve a fowl being flown to the mark, and also in divers and other ways to help and assist falcons and goshawks." He further alludes to cutting the tails of spaniels, about which he says, "it is necessary for several reasons, to cut off the tip of a spaniel's stern when it is a whelp. First, by doing so worms are prevented from breeding there ; in the next place, if it be not cut, he will be the less forward in pressing hastily into the covert after his game ; besides this benefit, the dog appears 'more

beautiful.' ” This custom of tail docking has continued to this day, we practising it, because the spaniel in working covert is less likely to injure his tail by lashing it backwards and forwards and tearing it amongst the tangled briars and the thick undergrowth than if it were left intact.

Even prior to such early times, we have mention made of the spaniel as of use in hawking, and “hys crafte was also for the perdrich or partridge, and the quaile; and, when taught to couche he is very serviceable to the fowlers who take those birds with nets.” In a fourteenth century MS. there is a picture of ladies hawking, they being attended by two dogs with long ears, no doubt intended to represent the spaniel of that period.

The spaniel in his two varieties, the land and water spaniel, was the sporting dog in those early days, and in “The Master of the Game,” written in the fifteenth century, we are told that this dog “hath many good customs and evil; he should have a large head and body, be of fair hue, white or tawny, and not too rough; but his tail should be rough and feathered.”

The Prince to whom we are indebted for this early treatise further says, the breed came from Spain, although it was to be had in other countries,

and those that were used for hawking were "buffers," *i.e.*, they gave tongue.

From these two breeds of spaniels, I believe, have sprung all the varieties known at the present time, not excluding the toy spaniels. Writers on canine matters so recently as within the present century, have told us that the Blenheim spaniel was at that time used for covert shooting, and was useful in such a capacity. Now it is purely and simply a lap or toy dog, and the most perfect specimens that are seen on the show benches would likely enough come off but second best in a tussle with a good wild rabbit.

The extraordinary sagacity and affectionate disposition of the spaniel have repeatedly formed a theme for those who delight to dwell on anecdotes relating to dogs. Unfortunately, in most instances, the variety of spaniel is not mentioned, so one is at a loss to know whether to give the credit of such extraordinary intelligence to the little creature that has been the pampered favourite of monarchs and ladies since the days of the Stuarts, or to that equally valuable animal which assists the sportsman to fill his bag with either feathered or ground game, or both.

But, as already hinted, the show era has wrought an extraordinary change in the character and appear-

ance of our spaniels, and in vain we look for the old curly-coated water variety that our grandfathers valued so highly, or for the equally useful and smaller dog, some twenty pounds weight or so, that would with equal facility "fetch" a stick that had been thrown into the water, or retrieve a rabbit with a hind leg broken that in vain struggled to reach the sanctuary of its burrow.

With, perhaps, few exceptions, the chief being the Clumber and Irish variety, our show spaniel of to-day is not a sportsman's dog—a fancy creature merely, whose coat requires as much grooming as that of a Yorkshire terrier, and the slightest waviness thereon would be as fatal to its chances of success before some judges as if it had but one eye, and unable to see with that one. Crooked forelegs, malformed elbows and shoulders, are often allowed to pass muster in the show ring, but a curly or wavy coat seldom.

Personally I should disqualify dogs with crooked, disproportioned forelegs, however long they might be in body, however "near the ground" (meaning, however short the legs), and however straight the coat. These abnormally formed dogs—"long and low" their owners love to call them—have completely usurped the position that the old fashioned field spaniel formerly occupied, and the modern edition is

neither so handsome nor so useful as the original one. The coats of the new may be straighter, shinier and more glossy, but in most cases the spaniel character has disappeared, and nothing so good occupies its position. I know the owners of these show dogs will still sell such specimens for a hundred pounds each or more, and will not agree with these remarks, but they are true nevertheless.

Some of the breeders with whom I have had acquaintance have considered it an advantage to be able to produce at least three so-called varieties from the same crosses. A black spaniel may be a brother to a Sussex or liver coloured specimen in the adjoining class; and further away it might be possible to find a liver and white, or blue and white, or black and tan, brother or sister to the others taking leading honours in a third class. Happily, in a few instances, one or two old varieties of field spaniel have been kept fairly pure, notably the Clumber and the Sussex, of which more anon. Still, even the best strains of the Sussex are often enough supplanted by dogs with "black blood" running in their veins, because they happen to be half an inch longer in the body and have the longer ears, the latter actually detrimental in his proper vocation of life that Nature brought him into the world to perform.

The early grouping of the spaniels at our shows was not satisfactory, and at the initial, Birmingham exhibitions but four classes were provided, two for Clumbers and two for "any other variety." About 1862 an improvement was wrought, Irish water spaniels were specially provided for, and later the classes were divided, not by colour or variety, but according to weight. Thus dogs exceeding 25lb. weight competed separately, so did dogs below that standard, and the bitches were restricted to over and under 20lb.

Now matters are different, colour is taken into consideration, and type and variety to a limited extent. In the best arranged schedules individual classes are provided for Clumbers (2), Irish Water Spaniels (2), Sussex or liver coloured (2), black (2), any other colour (1), and for cockers (2). In addition challenge classes may be made if it is deemed desirable so to do. The cockers are usually restricted to 25lb. in weight.

The old fashioned English water spaniel appears to have altogether disappeared, and now this curly-coated brown and white, retriever-like, but smaller, dog is not to be found, remaining only in the pictures engraved by Bewick and drawn by Reinagle and others. The "Sportsman's Cabinet" has a nice picture of this dog, and even so recent a writer as

Youatt (1845) illustrates and describes him. The variety has, however, been improved off the face of the earth, so will soon be forgotten.

The Spaniel Club, established in 1885, has issued its description of the spaniel in his varieties in a most exhaustive form, and this includes, besides those already mentioned, and more fully alluded to further on, the Norfolk spaniel. In the case of the cocker, divisions are made, the "black" and the "any other colour" being separated, forming, indeed, the two varieties out of the one. Why this has been done it is difficult to imagine, unless because members of the club are desirous of bringing into the cocker classes little black spaniels altogether of the modern type; and such are not cockers at all. They are miniature specimens of the ordinary field spaniels, and are bred from that stock.

The Norfolk spaniel is not now acknowledged by the public as a variety, though it is by the Spaniel Club. I have already said that the English water spaniel is pretty nearly extinct, and I have not seen one on the show bench for very many years. However, to give completeness, I have appended all the points and descriptions issued by the Club, and they will no doubt prove of value for reference in the future.

No doubt the Spaniel Club has done some good

in defining the varieties, describing them, and in looking after their interests at shows and exhibitions, but they have entirely neglected their working qualifications. At one period it was thought field trial competitions would have been provided, but the difficulties of arranging them satisfactorily must always be in the way of such gatherings. Personally I scarcely see how spaniel trials could be conducted, for in reality most of those who hold large kennels of spaniels for sporting purposes use them as teams. In fact the modern human beater—the fustian-clad yokel, with a long and stout stick and a stentorian cry of “Cock! cock! cock!”—has very long ago pretty well ousted the merry cockers or the more staid Clumber for driving the coverts; certainly an innovation not at all a desirable one.

There is no prettier sight than to see a team of well trained spaniels drop instantaneously to command or to gun fire. In reality covert work is the proper thing for spaniels to do. Some years ago, when the Knipe Scar and other coursing meetings were held over the Lowther estates of the Earl of Lonsdale, the coverts were occasionally beaten by an excellent team of liver and white spaniels. It was pleasant to see them driving their game out of the thick undergrowth of brambles and furze. When a hare was well away a shot was fired and each

member of the team dropped instanter. There they remained whilst the greyhounds were running their hare in the open. The course ended, and by command the spaniels were up again, as busy as possible, and so the day's proceedings were continued until nearly dark, when the coursing men had a long walk home before reaching headquarters, stopping, however, on their way to partake of the "roast beef of Old England," and its strong ale, spread upon the hospitable boards at the Castle. Certainly all round a better kind of sport than is to be had by modern coursing in the enclosed grounds.

As to the "field trials for spaniels," perhaps in due time some one will come forward with a scheme by which they may be conducted successfully in public; but the judge who would award the prizes to the satisfaction of the owners of such dogs as might be entered would have a position that no man could envy.

THE



Three Wags

CHAPTER XI.

THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL.

EARLY in 1859 a considerable amount of correspondence appeared in the *Field* with regard to Irish Water Spaniels. There had been writers on the matter who knew little or nothing about the dog in question, and now enquiries were made as to what the Irish Spaniel was and what he had been. "Smack" wrote of the "St. Leger breed," and of an excellent strain kept by Lord Erne; and the same week another admirer of the variety wrote from Dublin that, after long and diligent search, he found "the 'real Irish water spaniel one of the most difficult animals to procure."


Further he says the colour is most invariably of "a rich liver; the coat long, curly, and matted; the head peculiarly long, and almost hidden by long, silky ears, much longer than any English retrievers; the tail is thin and nearly destitute of hair; and, lastly, the animal stands high on his legs, which are thickly and closely feathered. It unites the sagacity

of the poodle with the daring of the spaniel, and although, by reason of its coat, nearly useless in covert, still no day is too long, no water too cold; and happy indeed ought the wild fowler to be if he can procure a specimen of this invaluable and almost extinct breed."

The above and other letters brought a reply from Mr. M'Carthy, who had for long been looked up to as the authority on the variety, and his communication to the *Field* (February 19th, 1859) must be taken as the most important contribution on the subject that had hitherto appeared. From this description of his strain, the type of water spaniel was formed, and so it has continued to the present day. Mr. M'Carthy wrote:—

"I have been the owner of the curly coated Irish water spaniel for the last thirty years, and have been, as it were, the godfather of most of those to be disposed of, the dealers always recommending their dogs by saying 'they are one of M'Carthy's real old breed.' I have bestowed many scores of dogs and bitches to gentlemen in every county in Ireland and many parts of England, and bitches have been sent to me from every part of this country for the services of my celebrated dog Boatswain, the patriarch of all the highly-bred dogs in the country.

"There is in reality but two breeds of the true



Irish water spaniel. In the north the dog has generally short ears without any feather, and is very often of a pied white and brown colour; in the south, the dog is of pure liver colour, with long ears, and well curled, with short stiff curls all over the body. The present improved and fancy breed, called M'Carthy's breed, should run thus: Dog from 21 inches to 22½ inches high (seldom higher when pure bred), head rather capacious, forehead prominent, face from eyes down perfectly smooth, ears from 24 inches to 26 inches from point to point. The head should be crowned with a well defined top-knot, not straggling across like the common, rough water dog, but coming down in a peak on the forehead. The body should be covered with small crisp curls, which often become clogged in the moulting season. The tail should be round without feather underneath, rather short, and as stiff as a ramrod; the colour of a pure puce liver without any white.

“Though these dogs are of high mettle, I have never found them untractable or difficult to train. They readily keep to heel and down charge, and will find a dead or wounded bird anywhere, either in the open or in covert; but they are not partial to stiff, thorny brakes, as the briars catch in their curls and trail after them. It is advisable to give them a

little training at night, so that in seeking objects they must rely upon their nose alone. For the gun they should be taught to go into the water like a duck; but when kept for fancy a good dog of this breed will take a flying jump of from twenty-five to thirty-five feet or more perpendicularly high into the water.

“My old dog Boatswain lived to about eighteen years old, when, although in good health and spirits, I was obliged to destroy him. . . . A good, well trained dog of this kind will not be obtained under from £10 to £20, and I have known £40 or £50 paid for one. They will not stand a cross with any other breed. . . . The pure breed has become very scarce; and although very hardy when grown up, they are very delicate as puppies.”

Following the above, some special interest appeared for a time to be taken in Irish water spaniels, and Captain Lindoe, R.N., Mr. E. Montessor, Mr. J. T. Robson, Mr. R. W. Boyle, Captain O'Grady, Mr. J. S. Skidmore, Mr. N. Morton, and a few others took them in hand. But they never appeared to become popular, possibly because their coats were so often ragged and untidy, and, maybe, shooting men found other dogs equally useful for wild fowl purposes. In 1862 two classes were provided for them at Birmingham, and, although there were but

three competitors the Curzon Hall executive have supported the Irish spaniel ever since, although, as a rule, competition is meagre and the entries are few.

To me it has been a matter of regret that nothing appears to be known as to the early history of the Irish water spaniel, and even Mr. M'Carthy omits to tell us where he first obtained his strain. Richardson is equally silent on the matter, and he an Irishman too. Still, he writes of and illustrates a dog similar to the breed already described. Gervase Markham (1595) tells of a "liver-hued water dog" that is "swiftest in swimming;" but he does not identify it with the Emerald Isle. Perhaps some one interested in the subject may yet be able to find out something as to the origin of this variety, and about what period it first came to be identified with the country from which it takes its name.

Without entering more fully into the particulars, it may be as well to hear what Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich has to say of the variety, and I thank him for doing so well that which I might have done indifferently, for the Irish water spaniel is one of those dogs whose acquaintance I have only made through shows. Mr. Farrow writes as follows:—

"I remember as well as if only yesterday a very old sporting friend—a man who had done years of

wild fowling on all the rivers and marshes in the East of England—coming up to me when I was engaged in a conversation with the late Mr. P. Bullock, going over the winners in the Irish Water Spaniel classes at a dog show held at Laycock's Dairy Yard, Islington, in 1869. Mr. Bullock's exhibit had obtained an extra prize, and the Rev. W. J. Mellor's Doctor and Bingo had been placed 1st and 3rd, and that good dog, Rake, Mr. P. Lindoe's, 2nd. 'Farrow,' said my old sporting friend, 'you don't want to trouble about those gentlemen; you would not use them twice in a boat, they carry too much water, with such a companion a boat is a miserable place to be in if you have any work to do.' This remark, however, did not stop the desire I had to go in for an Irish water spaniel at that time.

"I had certain rough shooting on some of the Essex marshes, and I found the Irish water spaniel a fairly useful dog for such work; he has, however, never been a popular companion with sportsmen generally, and never will be, for the simple reason that he is not the all round sportsman's dog many of his admirers claim him to be. His great length of ear, coat, and feathering almost prevent him, for instance, working in covert, whereas a good squarely-built field spaniel of fair size, with a

reasonable length of body, ear, and feathering, with a good dense coat, will do for you in water any and everything the Irish water spaniel can do, and perform in covert what the 'Irishman' cannot. Hence, since the history of dog exhibitions, this variety of water spaniel is standing still, and, on the contrary, there is an increase in the various kinds of field spaniels.

"Of course, it must not be understood that I believe all breeders of exhibition spaniels are sportsmen—it is a fact some are not—but I often think more is frequently made of this point than there is any sound justice for doing, and I state without fear of contradiction that a very large percentage of the breeders and exhibitors of the various classes of spaniels are also fond of their gun as well as their dog. Some, of course, have more opportunity than others for breeding and working their dogs. Another point which makes the ordinary springer or field spaniel more popular than the water spaniel is its size; a 45lb. field spaniel can place himself without difficulty out of the way in a boat or dog-cart, but not so the bigger Irishman.

"Perhaps the most prominent breeder, certainly the most successful exhibitor of Irish water spaniels since the history of dog shows, is Mr. J. S. Skidmore, of Nantwich, who claims for this variety of spaniel a

position as the most useful dog for the sportsman of limited means. Now, much as I respect this gentleman's views as to what a typical Irish water spaniel should be like, I cannot agree with him on this point. I regard the ordinary retriever or a fair-sized reasonably constructed field spaniel a much more useful dog. Let us take, for instance, an old cock pheasant, winged, in only a reasonable covert, and I should like to ask Mr. Skidmore what he thinks such specimens as some of his typical Irish water spaniels, measuring nearly a yard—I believe some of them measured over 30 inches—from tip to tip of ears, would do with a winged pheasant, or say a winged partridge in a ditch on a farm where high cultivation is unknown, or in a covert in which the undergrowth has not been touched for a dozen years.

“Again, in many specimens the coat is woolly in texture and too open and long; such a coat will hold as much water as a blanket, and a dog with an abundance of feather of this woolly texture of hair is simply a nuisance. If you walk across a farmyard with such a specimen he is not fit to look at, and if by chance you come across a bramble or piece of hedge clipping, and you do not notice it for a minute or so, a stop has to be made of two or three minutes to relieve the poor brute. I have seen a dog with

this woolly class of coat and feathering rendered almost useless on a proper wild-fowling day from the snow and ice freezing and hanging in balls or lumps as big as walnuts from the feathering, and to such an extent as to render the dog, before half the day was over, useless. I do not think this woolly open coat and feather is taken sufficient notice of by some of our judges ; I believe it is on the increase, and it is unquestionably the wrong class of coat for such a dog. I know we saw such coats years ago, but not so frequently as now.

“ I have said before, and I repeat, that this variety of spaniels has never been, and never will be, a popular sporting dog with Englishmen. The breed has been encouraged by classes being provided at almost all the principal exhibitions from their very commencement, still the Irish water spaniel has not made headway, and to-day is declining in both numbers and typical specimens when compared with what were to be found ten or a dozen years ago.

“ The origin of the Irish water spaniel is a matter no authority, or any one else, has ventured to say much about, and give anything like a definite opinion thereon. We know years ago Ireland possessed two, if not more, varieties, in the north and south. We also know that to-day, and indeed since dog shows

commenced, that our judges have taken the south of Ireland type for their standard of what an Irish water spaniel should be like. We know, also, that years ago more care was exercised by gentlemen in the south of Ireland to establish a type than those in the north; hence 'Stonehenge,' in his last work, making the following remark in his article on this variety of spaniel: 'At the present time the M'Carthy strain may be considered to be the type of the Irish water spaniel, and his description, published in the *Field*, and quoted on another page, is the standard by which the breed is judged, and must, therefore, be so regarded.' I may just remark that in my opinion the common 'water dog,' as known in 1803, a capital illustration of which appears in the 'Sportsman's Cabinet,' so often alluded to in these days, had a great deal to do with the originality of this variety of spaniel. Indeed, even down to the specimens seen to-day, in outline, the water dog referred to, much resembles the Irish water spaniels of the present period. Take, for instance, the top-knot and coat, the length of back, the length from hip to hock, the length of face, and one must, in my humble opinion, notice the similarity.

"The Irish water spaniel of to-day is looked after by two clubs, one in England and the other

in Ireland. The former club has recently revised its standard of points, but the revision, in my opinion, is not an improvement on the old one. Take the description of head, for instance, which is as follows : 'Capacious skull, rather raised on dome and fairly wide, showing large brain capacity. The dome appears higher than it really is, being surmounted by the crest or top-knot.'

"Not a word is said about the 'face,' the length of face—the very point in the breed that such an acknowledged authority as 'Stonehenge' goes out of his way to describe as 'very peculiar.' The face, in my opinion, and in the opinion of many old breeders, is a most remarkable and important feature of the breed. Take the top-knot again, another characteristic point of the breed, and it is very badly handled by the Club. Nothing like sufficient importance is given to it. In the remarks in the descriptive particulars of the coat we read as follows : 'Top-knot should fall well over the eyes.' Now, from such a description, one, I take it, would be satisfied if the top-knot came over the dog's eyes and was cut off quite square or straight across the face, as it is seen to-day on some of our chief prize winners. Such a top-knot I think wrong, and it always reminds me of the poodle's wig. The top-knot in a good specimen falls 'between' and

over the eyes in a 'peaked' form, and not across the eyes or face, like a poodle's.

"Years ago light-coloured eyes were looked upon as a grave fault. Judges often put such specimens back, and the critics noted the fault in their reports, but to-day the amber-coloured eye is almost fashionable. Anyhow, many of the principal winners have amber-coloured eyes, and such are recognised by the spaniel clubs. What, in fact, years ago, was one of the most objectionable points in the breed, is now, to a certain extent, allowed. That this altered state of things will last I do not believe, as I am quite certain, although the 'amber'-coloured eye is recognised by several influential breeders and exhibitors, it is not liked by 25 per cent. of the breeders of Irish water spaniels throughout England and Ireland. And of one thing I am positive, the amber eye will now take a lot of getting rid of in the breed, and the longer it is allowed, the more will this variety of spaniel fail in popularity and numbers. I have letters from several old breeders, who, from no other cause, have recently lost their interest in the breed.

"That the best specimens seen at our exhibitions now could hold their own with the best of ten or twenty years ago I do not believe. I am not one of the ancient pessimists who consider that years

since everything was so much better than is the case at the present time; but certain it is that Irish water spaniels of the past on the bench were more typical and perfect specimens than they are now.

“Let us compare a few of the principal prize dogs that were winning at shows held at the end of the sixties. I will take Mr. J. S. Skidmore’s Doctor (2061), Captain Lindoe’s Rake (2088), and Mr. Skidmore’s Duck (2066). Now I am quite certain any one of these three specimens, for length of face, formation of head throughout, colour of eye, length of ears, top-knot, and quality of coat—although, perhaps, not in colour of coat—would simply romp away from any one of the three specimens now winning in the challenge classes at our show—say Shaun, Harp, and the Shaughraun.

“I now come to a more recent period—say a dozen years ago; and I venture to state that few, if any, breeder or gentleman who has taken an interest in this variety, of spaniel will contradict me when I state that our present champions could not possibly have been in it, point for point with the prominent winners at that time. Take, for instance, such dogs as Mr. Skidmore’s Mickey Free (10,393), Mr. Hockey’s Young Patsey (10,397), and the same gentleman’s Lady (9250)

and other big winners about this time. It may be said, it is all very well to simply say that the prominent winning specimens ten years ago were so much ahead of the present prominent winners, but tell us, in your opinion, in what way, in which particular points, these specimens could beat the present winners? For argument's sake I will take the most prominent winning bitch of some few years back—Young Hilda (born 1878, breeder and exhibitor, Mr. G. S. Hockey) and Harp (born 1885, breeder and exhibitor, Colonel the Hon. W. Le Poer Trench). Now I say that in length of face, expression, colour of eye, colour and texture of coat and outline, there is no comparison between these two specimens; and it is in the points I have described where Holt loses so much when compared with Young Hilda. Thus, my opinion is, that the specimens seen generally to-day are behind those of an earlier generation."

At one time it appeared as if the Emerald Isle was ceasing to give us specimens of one of its favourite varieties, and Larry Doolan, a very excellent dog shown at one time by Mr. H. Morton, and later by Messrs. Carey, was the only distinguished representative that appeared at the show of the "base Saxon." Matters appear to be different now, and although there are many English admirers, Milesian

ones are even more numerous, and for the best specimens we must fly across the water. From Clonburn, co. Galway, Messrs. O'Rorke send in such animals as Rock Diver, whilst Mr. T. C. Tisdall has as good a strain as any man ever possessed, and his Dermot Asthore and Dick O'Donoghue are, perhaps, equal to anything we have ever seen. Mr. J. Conley, Bangor, co. Down, shows Rock Peggy with equal success, whilst Messrs. Carey, of Borris, co. Carlow, and others, are never without specimens worthy to meet in competition the very best of their variety. I even think that the Irish water spaniel is somehow or other looking up, and although the awards at shows are sometimes very conflicting, the entries at the leading exhibitions are increasing numerically, and by no means retrograding in quality. Both at the Kennel Club and Birmingham exhibitions of 1896 capital classes were forward, and while at the former Mr. F. C. Mitchell's Kempston Tessy was entirely passed over, at the latter, and with much the same dogs competing, she won all before her, and came out the champion of the day, a position which she thoroughly deserved.

Following Mr. Farrow's exhaustive and critical remarks, with most of which I am completely in accord, especially so far as his strictures on the light coloured eyes are concerned, little remains for

me to say. He, however, somewhat overstates his case about the "amber" eyes being almost fashionable, for in the Spaniel Club's scale appended, such eyes are handicapped to the extent of ten negative points, and at the present time some of our best Irish water spaniels are devoid of that objectionable feature.

Allusion may be made to certain protests which had been laid against two or three of these spaniels on the ground that their sterns or tails were artificially treated in order to add to their fineness. Various conflicting evidence was given before the Kennel Club, but the protests were not upheld. It may be stated that the Irish water spaniels are now shown in much better order, so far as their coats are concerned, than once was the case.

The principal exhibitors at the present time are Colonel the Hon. W. Le Poer Trench, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks; Mr. J. C. Cockburn, Glasgow; Mr. T. C. Tisdall, Monaghan, Ireland; Mr. J. A. Hearne, Midlothian; Mr. G. T. Millar, Denbigh; Mr. W. W. Thomson, Mitcham; Mr. J. C. Brown, Tewkesbury; Mr. T. S. Carey, Boris, co. Carlow; Mr. F. H. Fitzherbert; Messrs. C. T. and F. O'Rorke, Mr. T. H. Miller, Mr. F. C. Mitchell, Birmingham; Mr. C. E. Cartwright, Colwyn Bay; and Mr. S. J. Hurley, Killaloe.

The Club's points and description are as follows :

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head and jaw	10	Light yellow or gooseberry eyes	10
Eyes	5	Cording, or tags of dead or matted hair	12
Top-knot	5	Moustache, or poodle hair on cheek	5
Ears	10	Lank, open, or wholly coat	7
Neck	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	A natural sandy light coat	8
Body	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furnishing of tail more than half way down to sting ...	7
Fore-legs	5	Setter-feathering on legs ...	10
Hind-legs	5	White patch on chest	6
Feet	5		
Stern	10		
Coat	15		
General appearance	15		
Total Positive Points... 100		Total Negative Points ... 65	

Disqualifications.—Total absence of top-knot ; a fully feathered tail ; any white patch on any part of the dog, except a small one on chest or toe.

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

“ *Head.*—Capacious skull, rather raised in dome and fairly wide, showing large brain capacity. The dome appears higher than it really is, from its being surmounted by the crest or top-knot, which should grow down to a point between the eyes, leaving the temple smooth.

“ *Nose.*—Dark liver coloured, rather large, and well developed.

"*Eyes*.—Comparatively small. Dark amber and very intelligent looking.

"*Ears*.—Set on rather low. In a full-sized specimen the leather should not be less than 18 inches, and with feather about 24 inches. The feather on the ear should be long, abundant, and wavy.

"*Neck*.—Should be 'pointer-like,' *i.e.*, muscular, slightly arched, and not too long. It should be strongly set on the shoulders.

"*Body (including size and symmetry)*.—Height at shoulder from 20 to 23 inches, according to sex and strain; body, fair sized, round, barrel shaped, and well ribbed up.

"*Shoulder and chest*.—Chest deep, and *not* too narrow; shoulders strong, rather sloping, and well covered with hard muscle.

"*Back and loin*.—Back strong, loins trifle arched and powerful, so as to fit them for the heavy work of beating through sedgy, muddy sides of rivers.

"*Hind quarters*.—Round and muscular, and slightly drooping towards the set on of the stern.

"*Stern*.—A 'whip tail,' thick at base and tapering to a 'sting.' The hair on it should be short, straight, and close lying, excepting for a few inches from its root, where it gradually merges into the body coat in some short curls.

"Feet and Legs.—'Fore-legs' straight, well boned. They should be well furnished with wavy hair all round and down to the feet, which should be large and round. 'Hind-legs' stifle long, hock set low; they should be well furnished except from the hock down the front.

"Coat.—Neither woolly nor lank, but should consist of short crisp curls right up to the stern. Top-knot should fall well over the eyes. It, and furnishing of ears, should be abundant and wavy.

"Colour.—Dark rich liver or puce (to be judged by its original colour). A sandy light coat is a defect. Total absence of white desirable; any except a little on chest or a toe, should disqualify.

"General Appearance.—That of a strong, compact, dashing-looking dog, with a quaint and very intelligent aspect. They should not be leggy, as power and endurance are required of them in their work. Noisy and joyous when out for a spree, but mute on game." And it may be stated that the Irish water spaniel is the only dog of his variety not subjected to the custom of having his tail docked or shortened.

The weight of the Irish water spaniel should be from 50lb. to 60lb., or, maybe, a trifle over the latter figures. Colonel the Hon. Le Poer Trench's well-known dog Shaun, at five years old, scaled 64lb.;

his young dog Shamus, at one and a half years old, 63lb. ; his bitch Harp, at eight and a half years old, 54lb. ; and the three and a half years old Erin, 61lb. These three dogs may be taken as typical specimens of this variety, and of about the average and ordinary weight.

CHAPTER XII.

THE ENGLISH WATER SPANIEL.

PERSONALLY I should not have taken any further notice of this variety than has already been done, believing it to be almost, if not entirely, extinct, its place being now occupied by the ordinary retriever; but the Spaniel Club still acknowledges it, so some introduction to their description is required.

The old-fashioned water dog our great grand-fathers used was the English water spaniel. Mostly liver and white in colour, with a curly coat, it was just such an animal as would be produced through a cross between the modern brown curly-coated retriever and an ordinary liver and white spaniel. Reinagle, in the "Sportsman's Cabinet," gives us such a dog, and later, so recently as 1845, Youatt describes and illustrates the "Water Spaniel." That writer gives it a good character for docility, &c., and Ewan Smith draws him not unlike a modern curly retriever, but evidently liver and white. Certainly

his illustration makes this spaniel a bigger dog than we should have taken the English water spaniel ever to have been. However, the dog is not bred or kept now as a special variety, nor is there much likelihood of its being quickly resuscitated. Youatt said that the true breed was, even at the time he wrote, lost, and the variety was then a cross between the "water dog" and the English setter.

However, I believe that the old "water dog" and the English water spaniel were identical, and my opinion is pretty well supported by those who may be considered authorities on the matter.

At some of the earlier Birmingham dog shows classes were provided for English water spaniels, but few entries were obtained, and, these becoming fewer and fewer, the classes were discontinued entirely. I have not seen such a spaniel on the bench or in the ring for a long time; the Kennel Club Stud book during the past few years will be searched in vain for an entry of the breed, and the last so entered in 1886 had no pedigree attached to them. Curiosities rather than eligibilities for any Stud Book.

In some recent remarks on the English water spaniel Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich, says :

“The grandest specimen of this variety of spaniel I ever saw was Mr. P. Bullock’s Rover, which I came across at Birmingham in 1869, when awarded the second prize in the English Water Spaniel dog class. Although beaten for the first place at this exhibition, he made such an impression upon me that I can see him in my mind’s eye at the time of writing these notes, almost as clearly as when I was looking at him at the Birmingham Show in 1869. I had more than one conversation with those old spaniel and sporting dog judges, Mr. W. Lort and the Rev. T. Pearce (“Idstone”) in reference to this dog, and both thought him a most typical specimen. He won first prize at Birmingham in 1866, 1868, 1870, and at the Crystal Palace, and gold medal at Paris in 1865—the latter a win that, however, the owner and breeder of Rover thought more of, and a medal he was more pleased to show his friends, than any of his numerous other prizes. This dog was a beautiful, bright chestnut-red in colour, with a very deep square body, which was not long, legs straight, and about twice as long as the fashionable field spaniel seen at our present exhibitions, with beautiful flat bone, which in quantity was sufficient to carry his grand body without being lumbering. I never heard the weight of Rover, but should judge him, in show

form, about 48lb.; his tail had been shortened a bit, but was rather long; his neck was simply grand, and sprung from the very best of working placed shoulders, and his head was simply a study.

“ Nothing in the show world at the present time have we, even in the numerous beautiful field spaniels, black, exhibited, have we a head with such quality. The occiput showed itself slightly, and the head was of considerable length throughout, the length from eye to occiput and eye to nose being so beautifully balanced; the brows very cleanly cut, muzzle grandly developed, with just the correct quantity of flesh required to give a nice squareness; the eyes dark, showing no haw, but just a little bit of “ coral ” could be seen at the inner corner of each eye, and the whole face was brimful of spaniel fondness, life, and intelligence; ears long, well feathered inside as well as outside, and placed low, altogether making up such a head as I would willingly travel 500 miles to see once again. The coat was dense, but silky in texture, the curl of which was not so close or crisp as we like in an Irish water spaniel; his curl was indeed more of a ringlet, with not a particle of topknot; the feathering on legs was not so abundant as is seen on the Irish water spaniel, and was of the right texture for work.

“ Another smart English water spaniel I remember well was Flo, also born in 1869, a winner for several years at Birmingham. Flo was a daughter of Rover, the dog I have just given a description of, and was bred by Mr. Bullock, but nearly always shown by the Hon. Capt. Arbuthnot. This bitch was liver in colour, but of a lighter shade, and not so bright in hue as her sire. Her body was longer, but nothing like so square as Rover's, and she was, perhaps, rather high on her legs, and lacked the workmanlike and typical outline of her sire. A liver and white ticked dog named Don, shown by Mr. Crisp, was placed over her at one of the Curzon Hall shows, and later this dog did some important winning, but Rover often beat him, and was a long way the more typical of the two. Don's pedigree was never very clearly defined, and, although he had certain good, sound English water spaniel points about him, he had also points about him that one could see favoured the ordinary springer, or land spaniel; or, in other words, Don was not so distinctly typical of the variety as Rover, Flo, and others from the then famous Bilston kennels.”

These dogs mentioned by Mr. Farrow, and which I recollect perfectly well myself, may be said to be about the most typical of their race of modern times.

Similar animals are not produced now, but if there be any one anxious to resuscitate this once favourite dog, there is plenty of material for him to commence working upon, and it would not take long to re-introduce the variety, though perhaps a dog of such excellence as Rover would not be produced for some time to come.

The following are the Club's points and description of the English water spaniel.

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head, jaw, and eyes	20	Feather and stern	10
Ears	5	Top-knot	10
Neck	5		
Body	10		
Fore-legs	10		
Hind-legs	10		
Feet	5		
Stern	10		
Coat	15		
General appearance	10		
Total Positive Points...100		Total Negative Points...20	

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

" *Head*.—Long, somewhat straight and rather narrow; muzzle rather long, and, if anything, rather pointed.

" *Eyes*.—Small for the size of the dog.

" *Ears.*—Set on forward, and thickly clothed with hair inside and out.

" *Neck.*—Straight.

" *Body (including size and symmetry).*—Large, and very deep throughout; back ribs well developed, not quite so long as in field spaniels.

" *Nose.*—Large.

" *Shoulders and Chest.*—Shoulders low and chest rather narrow, but deep.

" *Back and loin.*—Strong but not clumsy.

" *Hind quarters.*—Long and straight; rather rising toward the stern than dropping, which, combined with the low shoulder, gives him the appearance of standing higher behind than in front.

" *Stern.*—Docked from 7 to 10 inches according to the size of the dog, carried a little above the level of the back, but by no means high.

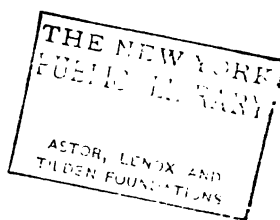
" *Feet and legs.*—Feet well spread, large and strong; well clothed with hair, especially between the pads. Legs long and strong; the stifles well bent.

" *Coat.*—Covered either with crisp curls or with ringlets; no top-knot, but the close curl should cease on the top of the head, leaving the face perfectly smooth and lean looking.

" *Colour.*—Black and white, liver and white,

or self-coloured black or liver. *The pied for choice.*

“*General Appearance.* — Sober-looking, with rather a slouching gate and a general independence of manner, which is thrown aside at the sight of a gun.”





CHAPTER XIII.

THE CLUMBER SPANIEL.

WITH the Irish water spaniel it may be said that shows have wrought less change in the Clumber spaniel than they have done in any other variety of dog. The reason for this is not very difficult to find, for he is but a comparatively modern introduction; he does not stand crossing well, and has come to be so bred in and in, that the tendency has been towards making him delicate and difficult to rear, rather than to alter or completely change his type, according to the fashion prevailing at the hour.

That fashion does change in canine matters pretty much as it does in dress and otherwise, no one having any knowledge of dogs will deny. About fifty years ago, William Youatt wrote his book about the dog. Strangely, he never mentions the Clumber spaniel, but gives an illustration of the English water spaniel. The latter is obsolete now, the former has classes provided for him at all shows

that pertain to leading rank, and is a fairly popular dog likewise.

We all know that this dog takes its name from Clumber, near Worksop, one of the seats of the Dukes of Newcastle, and where that dog has been kept from its first introduction to this country to the present time. When that first introduction took place is not exactly known, but it was probably about the middle of the eighteenth century when the Duc de Nouailles presented the then Duke of Newcastle with a number of spaniels, which in France had a reputation for being better than others, as they were steady workers and easily brought under command, *i.e.*, there was little difficulty in training them. This good character remains with them at the present day. For many years the breed was kept at Clumber, and so zealously guarded and so identified with the place, that in due time it came to bear the name of the seat, which is still retained. This appears to be the early-history of the Clumber spaniel, and, although in various parts of France many spaniels are still found and used in work, I have not been able to trace any kennels of true Clumbers in that country.

That the Clumbers were with the Duke of Newcastle at the end of last century proof remains on canvas. There is a portrait of his Grace, seated

on a shooting pony and surrounded by a group of his spaniels, which are identical with the Clumbers of the present day, though, perhaps, they appear somewhat smaller, and are rather longer in the head, than the majority of the best dogs we see now. At that time, or rather a few years later, a writer in the "Sporting Magazine" called them "springers" or "cock-flushers." This admirable and useful picture, the work of F. Wheatley, R.A., was, in 1797, engraved; the painting itself remains, copies of the engraving are still extant, and, although highly valued by the admirers of spaniels who own them, copies are occasionally to be found in the leading shops that deal in such treasures.

Dog shows were unknown then, and the spaniel was kept solely for working purposes. In due course, this strain from Clumber came to be somewhat spread about the country, though comparatively scarce and highly valued. That the latter was the case may be inferred from the fact that, at the first Birmingham show, say in 1859, a class was provided for them, and the following year two divisions were given this handsome spaniel, and such have been continued ever since. At the early show Lord Spencer was the winner with a good looking dog, but the succeeding one saw Mr. E. Boaler (who had been with the Duke of Portland

at Welbeck), of near Chesterfield, taking first honours in both classes, the Spencer kennel coming but second. On this occasion there were a dozen entries.

It was, however, in 1861 that the chief interest was caused, when there was a capital collection of seventeen dogs and bitches. The late Mr. C. E. Holford, of Weston Park, Tetbury, sent up an exceptionally smart team, and succeeded in winning all the six prizes awarded. Following, this kennel was for a time almost invincible when it was represented on the show bench, which was not often, as the dogs were kept for working the coverts, where they did what was expected of them very well indeed. Of late years Mr. Holford's Clumbers appear to have deteriorated very much, for when, a few years ago, they were dispersed at Aldridge's, in St. Martin's Lane, the puppies were but a sorry sample, and, with one or two exceptions, the old dogs were not much better. However, for a generation or two Mr. Holford's Clumbers formed one of the leading kennels of that variety in the country.

To hark back, Mr. Boaler's Bustle and Floss, that won in 1860 and at other shows about this period and later, were excellent specimens; lemon in markings, with good bodies, great bone, and certainly not excelled by any of the same race that

appeared at these earlier shows. It is interesting to note that at the present time a son of this Mr. Boaler — namely, Mr. G. Boaler, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, still has Clumber spaniels good enough to show and appear in the prize list, and of the same strain that his father won with thirty years since. This kennel has been kept up for over fifty years, and it is owing only to the failing health of their owner that they do not appear oftener on the show bench.

It need scarcely be said, that in the first volume of the Kennel Club Stud Book classifications were given this dog, the entries reaching the excellent number of sixty-five.

At this period, no doubt, some peculiar decisions were given at our dog shows, where, in many cases, a judge undertook his duty without knowing anything at all about the breed upon which he had to adjudicate. Instances were not isolated where he awarded the prizes more to the man than the dog, and so, to his own satisfaction, got out of a difficulty into which his own self-assertion had led him. It is said that on the eve of one of the large shows there was a difficulty in obtaining a judge for Clumber spaniels. The secretary was at his wit's end and did not know what to do, when, seeing Mr. —, one of the so-called "all-round" judges,

a happy inspiration occurred. "Eh!" called the secretary to the "all-round man." "You can judge Clumbers, can't you?" "Clumbers, Clumbers," was the reply; "what's them? Oh! I know; them big white dawgs with yellow marks. Yes, I've never seen but one or two, but I'll take them," and he did. What his decisions were may be easily imagined.

A year or two later than this, a comparatively unknown exhibitor had perhaps the best Clumber of the day. He showed it at one of the Crystal Palace shows, and, with a friend, was looking around the class preparatory to the judging, which then took place on the terrace. No doubt the dog in question was the best in his class, but two or three numbers away, a well-known exhibitor was "running" another Clumber. "Ah!" said the unknown owner, "my chance is poor to-day. That dog will win!" "Why?" replied his friend, "such cannot be; that dog is small and mean, no bigger much than a cocker." However, the "small and mean" did win, and was afterwards sold to someone, who at the same time must have been considerably sold himself; for his purchase was undoubtedly one of the very worst dogs in a class which included such grand specimens as Duke, Nabob, and others not far behind them.

These little stories are mentioned explanatory of the difficulty breeders of Clumbers have had to contend with in the matter of judges. Moreover, the dog requires very great care in breeding or rearing, which in itself is quite as much as his admirers can put up with, without having additional suffering in the show ring. It has been said that no man ought to judge unless he had seen the breed he was handling at work, and had owned some of them himself. However, this is a question that may be argued *ad infinitum*, and is as applicable to any dog as much as to the one the name of which appears at the head of this chapter.

Mr. Wardle, in his illustration, has exceedingly well portrayed what a Clumber spaniel should be, and a little description of the two dogs may be interesting. That standing foremost possesses the perfect body of one of the best working dogs, but in the flesh its head is far from what it ought to be, so the artist has replaced it with the head from another dog, which is considered to be about as good as they can be obtained. The bitch behind is almost an exact likeness of the original, improved somewhat to approach that perfection which no dog has yet been able to reach.

In colour the body of the dog should be white, the ears coloured, spot on the occiput; and on the

side of the face to the eye there should be lemon markings, and the jaw must be well flecked and ticked with marks of a similar colour. There is a diversity of opinion as to what this colour should be. I prefer lemon, and this not too dark in shade ; others prefer this lemon approaching, or quite, an orange hue. Liver or brown markings are entirely wrong, and should certainly disqualify, however good the dog bearing them is in other particulars. As to colour that well-known admirer of the variety, Mr. J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, tells me that some few years ago he had a number of dogs with light lemon markings, but got rid of them, as they were not, in his opinion, nearly so attractive in teams as those of a darker shade—rather a peculiar statement to give as a reason for destroying and disposing of valuable dogs.

The head large, square, and fairly long, but so massive as to render the length not impressive ; it should be broad on the top, with a decided occipital protuberance, heavy brows, with a deep stop ; haw showing. Muzzle long and heavy, with well developed flew ; “ snipeyness,” or a weak face, being very objectionable.

A few years ago there was a controversy amongst writers as to whether the head should be unduly long or unduly short. I have no doubt on the point.

The heads of the dogs in the picture of 1797 are long—decidedly long; so are the muzzles, in which point they show a weakness, like many otherwise good dogs of the present day. With regard to this difference of opinion it must be remembered that, although this variety is often used in teams for covert shooting, it may be part of its duty to retrieve, and the jaw should be of a formation to enable the animal to carry a hare or pheasant with ease. Besides, the massive head is a great feature in the variety, and we cannot get massiveness without length. It is important that there should be no resemblance to the setter; but if the head I have described be borne in mind, and Mr. Wardle's drawing be referred to, there will be no likelihood of the setter type being produced, and we must remember that the deep stop is very important, also the drooping eye showing haw, as in the blood-hound.

The ears, whilst being large, look small for the size of the dog, and should not hang below the throat, but come slightly forward.

The neck is very thick, and the chest very heavily feathered. The shoulders particularly strong and muscular. The legs short, with as much bone as can be obtained. They should be straight, but here I would prefer a crooked legged rather than

a long legged dog. They should be very heavily feathered.

With regard to this question of legs it must be remembered that the work of the dog is to hunt in front of the gun and flush game, but he should never go faster than a trot. I have found that if we get a dog with long legs, when he gets the scent he is apt to go away too quickly and flush his game out of shot. This is annoying, and the dog that will stick to his slow trot will keep on all day, always giving a chance for the gun, and so is much to be preferred.

The body should be long—*i.e.*, as long as possible consistently with being well ribbed up. If the latter point be obtained the body cannot be too long, but I have seen dogs of such a length as to be next to useless from a sportsman's point of view, and, however handsome they might be, unless well ribbed up, I should never award a prize to such a dog. It is said that the body should be low; this does not mean low from the back to the ground, but that the chest should be so deep and so heavily feathered as to show very little daylight underneath. The deeper the body and rounder the ribs the better. The back should be straight. The hindquarters are very powerful and heavily feathered, hocks set on low, and when the dog is standing showing well behind the body.

When looking at the dog with a side point of view he should underneath appear level from front to rear ; a great defect in some of the modern dogs being that, whilst well let down in front, they are tucked up behind like a greyhound. The tail should be straight (a fourth docked off), and carried at any rate level with the back, below rather than above it, and, like the hindquarters, should be very heavily feathered.

It is a great point of beauty in the Clumber that when the team is out at exercise or work the stern is on a continual move from side to side. I find that dogs which at exercise and at work invariably have beautiful tail action, are very apt, when taken from the bench into the judging ring, to carry their tails high. This is often done by the best dogs, and is in many cases the result of being in robust health and spirit. Before passing over a dog for this fault judges should wait as long as possible, and watch the effect of allowing the dog to quieten down. The coat should be straight and of medium texture. Coarse coated dogs are not handsome, and soft coated ones, when in work, are continually getting heated in their skin ; besides, a soft coat is not suitable for a dog whose work is principally in covert in autumn when the leaves have fallen.

A great authority on spaniels wrote the other

day:—"The outline of many of our Clumber dogs to-day is bad, they have very massive fore-quarters with very weak hindquarters, cut up in stifle, and, indeed, are made as much on the fashionable and typical lines of a Bulldog as a Clumber. A Clumber must be built on massive lines throughout, not heavy in one part of its frame and light in another. A perfect Clumber body, although long, should be so deep and massive as to appear square when looked at broadside on; that is, if you carry your eye from the top of the shoulder to the hip joint, from the hip joint to the stifle joint, and from the stifle joint to the elbow, and elbow to the starting point, the outline should be almost a square. This is a perfect body for a Clumber, but how many have them of this stamp?"

With regard to his work, the Clumber is slow, very slow, but he never tires, and goes on day by day. At many places they are worked in teams. At Knowsley, one of the seats of the Earl of Derby, from twenty-five to thirty Clumbers are used in this manner, as occasion requires.

The Clumber spaniel is mute, easily broken, and should be trained to drop to hand, wing, and shot. If a large number of dogs are worked together it is better that they should not be taught to retrieve, but if only a few are required for woodcock and for

general shooting (for which they are invaluable) then retrieving should be a *sine quâ non*. They take to this naturally. To teach them, dry a rabbit skin, stuff it with hay, and wrap it round with string, and when the pups are about three months old have similar skins thrown for them to retrieve. After a very few lessons they learn to do this, and enjoy the fun. Then kill a bird or two to them, letting them fetch it, which in nine cases out of ten they will do willingly, and with the greatest pleasure.

The work of breaking is quite simple. It is important that rabbits should not be killed to them before birds, or the dogs are apt to get hard mouthed. As a companion the Clumber is excellent; it is very unusual to find one with a bad temper, and there are few things which he cannot be taught to do.

The Rev. T. Pearce ("Idstone") was as fond of a Clumber spaniel as he was of a wavy-coated retriever and a Gordon setter, and when he wrote about twenty years ago, the chief Clumber owners were the Earl of Abingdon, Mr. James Morrell, the Marquis of Westminster, Earl Spencer, Mr. Holford, and the Maharajah Dhuleep Sing; at least, this was the somewhat incomplete list he published in his book on the dog. There are a few kennels of

Clumbers at the present day, and, perhaps, all round, this dog is more common than ever, *i.e.*, it is to be found in greater numbers in fair perfection than at any previous time of our history.

So far as one can make out, I believe the principal kennels at this time, 1892, are dealt with in the succeeding pages. As a commencement, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, at Sandringham, has a number of handsome Clumbers that are first class workers, and there are promising puppies coming on. The failing in most of His Royal Highness's dogs is in their heads, they being narrow and deficient in massiveness. Suitably and successfully crossed with a dog or dogs excelling in head properties, probably, the Sandringham Clumbers would be about the best in existence. Mr. Foljambe, at Osberton Hall, near Worksop, has a fair team, the fault here being lightness in bone, and deficiency in head properties. This strain, perhaps excels all others in making an off-cross, and drafts from here are often on sale during the season at Aldridge's.

The Dukes of Portland, Newcastle, and Westminster own the kennels that are most popularly known, and, although they have not been kept up to date so far as appearance is concerned, greater pains, I believe, are now being taken to make an

improvement in size, bone, and head properties, the latter being where almost all the strains fail. An exception, however, may be made to the dogs kept for many years by Mr. H. H. Holmes, of Lancaster. All his Clumbers were particularly good in head, and if they are wrong at all in this particular, they have an inclination to be too short, and so become rather sour in expression. These dogs are also excellent in colour and bone, indeed, so far as bench properties go, were the best of all, as the successes of his Tower, John o' Gaunt, Hotpot, and others testified. This must be an extremely valuable strain to use, if it has not been lost, where the modern failing is so predominant.

Lord Derby's dogs have been alluded to. Lord Clinton Hope, at Deep Deenes, Surrey, has an excellent team, mostly of the strain obtained from Mr. J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, who is perhaps the greatest modern enthusiast of all, in the way of Clumbers, and when he shows them is usually in the prize list. His dogs are equally as good in the field.

As an instance of Mr. Hinck's enthusiasm it may be mentioned that at the recent sale of Mr. Holford's spaniels, at Aldridge's, the ten-year-old Brush II., a Birmingham first prize winner and a most typical Clumber, was put up for auction

though feeble and quite worn out. Mr. Hincks purchased the poor old dog in order that it should have a peaceful home and be well cared for in its declining years. However, Brush did not survive its change of ownership many weeks.

Baron Rothschild also, I believe, uses Clumbers for beating his extensive coverts ; and Mr. Allen, of Ampthill, has had some capital specimens, chiefly of the Duke of Portland's strain. The Earl Spencer keeps a team at Althorp Park, Northampton, and drafts therefrom occasionally appear at Aldridge's sales in St. Martin's Lane. The latter are, however, as a rule, rather inferior specimens. Mr. J. H. McKenna, of Harpurhey, near Manchester, can show an excellent team, so can Mr. G. B. Clark, Bridgenorth ; Messrs. Haylock and Barnard, Chelmsford ; Mr. F. Parlett, near Chelmsford ; Mr. Charles, Neath ; the Rev. A. G. Brooke ; Captain Maxwell, Dumfries ; the Earl of Manners, Mr. V. Kitchingman, Slingsby, York ; and Mr. Boaler (already mentioned), have all at one time or another owned and bred many good specimens.

To my mind the best three Clumbers of the early days of the show ring were Mr. H. P. Charles's Duke, who was by Foljambe's Bang—Mr. R. S. Holford's Trimbush, and the writer's Nabob, afterward shown by Mr. P. Bullock and Mr. G. H. Oliver. Mr. R. J.

Lloyd Price's Bruce, illustrated in "Stonehenge," stood too high on the legs and was too long in the head; but about this time twenty-five years ago many good dogs were being shown, mostly of the Foljambe strain, or at any rate said to be so. Of more modern dogs I take Mr. Holmes' John o' Gaunt, Mr. Hinck's Nora Friar; Chelmsford Clytie, bred by Messrs. Haylock and Barnard; the Duke of Portland's Fairy III., Damper, Welbeck Bess, and Fop; the Duchess of Newcastle's Rally of Hardwicke; Mr. R. Chapman's Wycombe Rattle; Mr. J. Farrow's Fribble; Mr. Fellow's Alveley Bruce; Mr. D. C. Davies' Ferndale Punch, and Mr. Parlett's Trust and Truth to be about the best. Psycho, who at one time did a great deal of winning, was terribly weak in head, and Boss III., "a champion," was also similarly wrong, and his loins were bad. However, I think, with a few enthusiasts at work in addition to those whose names have been mentioned, there may be an improved future for the Clumber spaniel.

A leading breeder of the variety says that the best dog for stud purposes he ever owned was one called Barney, which he purchased at one of the Birmingham shows. The dog, although not straight on his legs, bad in colour, and too fine in coat, proved extremely useful. In speaking of the same dog he said this fine coat made him liable to a form of skin disease

similar to mud fever in horses, and which was brought on by working. My experience is that the Clumber spaniel is more subject to disease of one kind and another than other dogs. Not many years ago there was an excellent bitch being shown, often winning, and usually catalogued to sell at an extremely low price. Bromine her name was, well bred, and when she was sold to go to America, I remarked to a friend who liked Clumbers, how foolish he was to allow such a good bitch to go out of the country. "You don't know as much about her as I do," replied the friend; "she cannot be kept in health, and is nearly always up to the eyes in mange." It need scarcely be said that she did not survive long amidst our American cousins.

Mr. Hincks tells me a little as to the doings of some of his Clumbers when at work. Of the dog Barney, already alluded to, he says: "I had him out one day with a young dog, Friar Jumbo. A covey of birds rose and crossed me from left to right in the corner of a field. I took the first bird, and as I pulled two others came in the line of fire. The bird aimed at dropped dead, whilst the other two were winged. Both dogs dropped to shot, and one of the wounded birds made for one fence and the other for another fence. I took the two dogs

and sent them in different directions ; each returned with his bird, and not a feather ruffled."

Mr. Hincks mentions another excellent performance of one of his dogs, Friar Boss, which he had with him on a visit to Wales to look after cock, stray pheasants, and anything that could be found on a wild, rough shooting. There was a mixed team of dogs with the party, and the host expressed a great dislike to "show dogs" and to show Clumbers in particular. However, Boss's owner got the first three woodcocks over his dog, and the second day "the showman" did so well as to quite alter the opinion held by the lessee of the shooting. Boss hustled out an old cock pheasant, which made away over the top of a hedge, but was stopped just in the nick of time. The dog dropped to shot ; Mr. Hincks lighted his pipe, then sent Boss for the bird. "Hi ! what are you waiting for ?" cried one of the party. "Bird be hanged ; the dog is ranging away right at the end of the other field ; come back," and Mr. Hincks got over the fence to see what was the matter. But instead of ranging wildly, Boss had his nose down, and speedily came back with the fluttering cock in his mouth, for it had been but winged, and had run the full length of two fields. So after all "show dogs" may be of some use.

Thus much for the Clumber spaniel and his work, and all that is to be done for him now is to say that he is not a water dog, and give the Spaniel Club's description of him. This is as follows :

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head and jaw.....	20	Curled ears	10
Eyes.....	5	Curled coat	20
Ears	5	Bad carriage of tail ...	10
Neck	5	Snipy face	15
Body	15	Legginess	10
Fore legs	5	Light eyes	5
Hind legs	5		
Feet.....	5		
Stern	5		
Colour of markings	10		
Coat and feather.....	10		
General appearance	10		
	—		—
Total Positive Points...	100	Total Negative Points...	70
	—		—

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

Head.—Large, square, and massive, of medium length, broad on top, with a decided occiput ; heavy brows with a deep stop ; heavy freckled muzzle with well developed flew.

Eyes.—Dark amber, slightly sunk, and showing haw.

Ears.—Large, vine-leaf shaped, and well covered with straight hair and hanging slightly forward, the feather not to extend below the leather.

Neck.—Very thick and powerful, and well feathered underneath.

Body (including size and symmetry).—Long and heavy, and near the ground.

Nose.—Square and flesh coloured.

Shoulders and Chest.—Wide and deep ; shoulders strong and muscular.

Back and Loin.—Back straight, broad and long ; loin, powerful, well let down in flank.

Hind Quarters.—Very powerful and well developed.

Stern.—Set low, well feathered, and carried about level with the back.

Feet and Legs.—Feet large and round, well covered with hair ; legs short, thick, and strong ; hocks low.

Coat.—Long, abundant, soft and straight.

Colour.—Plain white, with lemon markings ; orange permissible but not desirable ; slight head markings, with white body preferred.

General Appearance.—Should be that of a long, low, heavy, very massive dog, with a thoughtful expression.

Weight of dogs from 55lb. to 65lb. ; bitches 45lb. to 55lb.

The new club for sporting and working spaniels promises to do something in the way of popularising the Clumber, but its members must not forget that

no modern variety of the canine race resents "crossing" with other strains so much as the Clumber spaniel. He has a thoroughly distinct character of his own, which happily has not been spoiled by the vagaries of fashion consequent upon the varying opinions of certain judges, and, like a few other breeds of sporting dogs, he remains pretty much what he was half a century or more ago. We require him no heavier in bone, nor in body, nor more massive in head than he is to be found at present, and his comparative inutility as a single dog will always be against his being so popular as longer legged and consequently more active varieties of the spaniel.

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CHAPTER XIV.

THE SUSSEX SPANIEL.

A WELL-KNOWN authority on the dog, writing in 1802, says that some of the largest and strongest spaniels "are common in many parts of Sussex, and are called Sussex spaniels." Unfortunately, he does not tell us what colour they were or what colour they ought to be ; still there is no doubt, from what I have been told, from what I have read, and from general gossip, that this spaniel was brown in colour, or, as that shade is usually called in application to the variety, "golden liver."

It somehow appears strange that, until within thirty years or so ago, this handsome and useful spaniel should have been allowed to languish in a quiet country place in its native country ; bred by certain families, who valued it only for its working excellences, and, by a course of much in-breeding, rendered its extinction only a matter of time unless others came forward to strengthen the breed.

When "Stonehenge," in 1859, wrote "The Dog in Health and Disease," attention appears to have been drawn particularly to the Sussex spaniel, and the outcome of that article of his was a mass of information on the subject that was extremely valuable. It was not, however, until much later—viz., in 1872—that a class for Sussex spaniels was provided at our dog shows, this being at the Crystal Palace, when, I believe, Mr. J. A. Handy offered a special prize for them. The awards, however, did not appear to be satisfactory to those who knew the variety. They said that the leading honour ought to have gone to Mr. J. H. Salter's Chance, who came second to Captain Arbuthnot's Dash, an ordinary field spaniel with none of the true character about him, third to a dog bred from at any rate one black parent, Mr. Bullock's George. However, if the awards were wrong—and it was not the first time they had been nor was it the last occasion in which the judging was in error—Sussex spaniels obtained such a fillip that they have not looked behind them since.

The Rosehill strain was the most fancied, and into Sussex all the "show men," with Mr. T. B. Bowers in command, ran to see if they could buy up the plums that remained in the neighbourhood. Some few were found, but the owners knew their

value as purely sporting dogs, and were loth to part with them at anything else than "sporting" figures, this word, however, used in quite a different sense—an opposite one in fact, and "fancy figures" might be better.

For over fifty years Mr. Fuller, at Rosehill Hall, Brightling, near Hastings, had perhaps the leading strain, but, although some of it remains, mostly in the kennels of Mr. Campbell Newington, at Ridgeway, Ticehurst, Sussex, and in those of Mr. Moses Woolland, William-street, Lowndes-square, London, and Mr. J. H. Salter, at Tolleshunt d'Arcy, we fancy not one is quite free from a strange cross.

Mr. Fuller kept his spaniels for the purpose of beating the large woods and plantations in the vicinity of Brightling and Heathfield. He was a good sportsman of the old school, one perhaps better satisfied when killing his eight or ten brace of wild pheasants a day over dogs, than the modern shooter is with more than fifteen times that number of hand-fed birds brought to book by the aid of human beaters. Not that I have any wish to decry the "big days" in covert we all so much enjoy, nor for one moment run down the skill of the man who can kill a score of rocketers without more than two or three misses.

On the death of Mr. Fuller, which occurred so far

back as 1847, Mrs. Fuller allowed Relf, the head keeper, to select two of the best spaniels in the kennel; the remainder were for a time used by the new tenant of the shooting, but eventually sold, and realised high prices. There were seven of them so disposed of, but it was from the dog and bitch selected by Relf, named respectively George and Romp, that the strain, so far as it goes, survives at the present.

It has been stated that the original strain from Rosehill was lost through an outbreak of rabies in the kennels necessitating entire destruction of the spaniels. This was not the case. Many years before Mr. Fuller's death, there was such an outbreak amongst the hounds—southern hounds they were. These were destroyed, and with them some of the spaniels, but by no means the whole of the latter.

In addition to the Rosehill strain, Dr. Williams, of Hayward's Heath, had some excellent Sussex spaniels, so had Mr. Farmer at Cowfold, but it is years since the first-named wrote that he had not a single specimen in his kennel, and did not know where to find any of the pure breed. However, thanks to those gentlemen I have named, and the trouble they have taken to retain what blood remained, the complete extinction of the pure Sussex spaniel is now improbable.

Some eighteen years ago the best bred dogs were Mr. Newington's Laurie, born in 1877, and which came to an untimely end by swallowing a cork ; Mr. Salter's Chloe, Mr. Egerton's George, and Mr. Hudson's Battle.

Peggie, the dam of Bachelor, who did a great deal of winning in his day, had a considerable strain of water spaniel blood in her, and so the descendants of that bitch, handsome though she was, cannot be deemed as pure as they might be, still, with slight exception, Bachelor was about as pure as any at that time, and it is from his strain that the various colours which now and then appear are produced. It was rather unfortunate that Mr. Bullock's George, one of the illustrations of the Sussex spaniels published in the *Field* in 1872, was by his dog Bob, one of the best of the black variety ever benched. So here again are so-called Sussex descended from him, and his strain cannot be considered the genuine article. But, as already stated, not one is entirely pure, and, so far as I can make out, the dog Laurie, already alluded to, was about as free from black in the strain as any, he being by Hudson's Dash out of his Romp, the latter with a sire and dam pure Rosehill, and Dash was by Mr. Curtiss' Bob—Mr. Watt's Dash, both pure in their way.

I cannot find any others of the best looking and most typical dogs that do not on one side or the other go back to Bachelor. Still with no more wrong blood than he possessed, there was not much harm done, and those who take the trouble to reproduce the true thing have every opportunity of doing so, especially where they take pains to keep off any sire or dam that excels in the length of the ears.

The distinguishing feature in the Sussex spaniel is the "golden liver colour," and without which no dog should receive a prize. How this was originally obtained it is difficult to say, but Relf, the favourite old keeper at the Rosehill kennels, who died some years ago, aged eighty-five, said that every now and then they obtained amongst their puppies one of a "sandy" colour. This sandy specimen, I have since heard, only came in from a bitch that was mated with a dog belonging to Dr. Watts, of Battle. This conveys the impression that this strain, some time or other, had (and I am writing of what occurred as far back as fifty years since), a "sandy" coloured or yellow dog or bitch in it, and these lighter-shaded puppies bred back to that time. This is a remarkable fact, because a sandy colour bred to liver colour would be likely enough to produce that lovely golden tinge that is so desirable at the present time, and has been so for very many

years. It need scarcely be said that the "sandy" puppies were usually destroyed by the old keeper, to whom nevertheless we must be in a great measure indebted for the Sussex spaniel as he is to-day in his purity.

In the modern specimens there is a tendency to get the coats too fine, such of course being to the advantage of the dogs when before the judges, but very much against them for work. A good dog ought to have a hardish coat, dense underneath, perfectly straight, and one that would allow a willing dog (and the strain is willing enough) to work in the thickest covert of briar and bramble.

Then another peculiarity in the Sussex spaniel lies in his ears. These ought not to be too long, small, or narrow where they are set on (which should be low), but larger or "lobe shaped" towards the base, all nicely coated with straight silky hair, quite free from fringe at the tips. Perhaps one of the most typical of her race we have seen was Mr. T. B. Bower's Maud, born in 1871. She was bred by Mr. Saxby, and said to be pure Rosehill on the sides of both her sire and dam. She was, however, somewhat fine in coat, and had not quite so workman-like an appearance as might have been desirable. Those handsome dogs, the Bebbs (there was a whole family of them), that did no end of winning

on the show bench twenty years ago, were not Sussex at all. Old Bebb, Mr. Burgess's, originally came from Lord Derby's kennels at Knowsley, and proved such a useful sire that he could produce browns, blacks, and other colours from the same dam.

The late Mr. J. A. Handy, who was a great authority on the breed, persisted that another most important item was that the feather on either the front or hind legs "should not extend down to the toes. It should stand out straight from the back of the legs, without that fluffy Cochin-China-like appearance considered by many persons a desideratum in a prize spaniel—indeed, the hind legs from the hock downwards should not be feathered at all." I give the above opinion for what it is worth, but the dogs that we see on the benches have, when in coat, certainly more feather on the legs than Mr. Handy indicates, though what they might be in full work and beating the coverts five days in the week is another question. The "show feather" would soon disappear.

As a worker the Sussex spaniel is second to none. He is hardy, busy, reliable, and has no preference to hunt one kind of game before another—*i.e.*, he will not leave fur for feather nor feather for fur, though perhaps of the two he would prefer "feather." There is no better dog than he for beating out the

thick covert when the cocks have arrived and the pheasants are chary of taking wing. He works closely, intelligently, and will not leave a bit of covert untried; he is a faster and merrier worker than the Clumber, and will go on quite as long. He is not mute, though not a noisy dog by any means; a slight yelp or whimper every now and then, when on a hot scent, which becomes more of a round full bark when close to his game or when it is in sight. Of course, some dogs may be more excitable than others, but what I call a very noisy spaniel is quite out of place, for it often enough leads the shooter to believe it has game in front of its nose when such is far away, and perhaps never comes within distance to afford a shot. The Sussex spaniel readily retrieves, is tender-mouthed, and makes by no means a bad single-handed dog where a pointer or setter will not be of much use. As a water dog he is excellent when properly trained for the purpose.

In a great measure the present popularity of the pure Sussex spaniel is due to what Mr. T. B. Bowers, who then lived near Chester, did for it many years ago. He was energetic in defining the type, got to the right strains, and protested against the award of prizes to brown dogs that had sprung from black parents, and had little or no Sussex blood in them.

This he did so successfully that a well-known liver-coloured dog, called George, a great winner in Sussex classes and mentioned earlier on, was withdrawn from competition because his sire and dam were both black. Following him, no one has had so many good specimens as are to be found in the possession of Mr. Moses Woolland and Mr. Campbell Newington at the present time, and the competition at our shows is usually restricted to representatives from those kennels, unless Mr. Salter sends an entry or two. At the Crystal Palace show in the autumn of 1892, and at Birmingham and other exhibitions later on, Mr. Newington showed an excellent dog, called Rosehill Ruler II., which his owner states contains perhaps more of the real Rosehill blood than any other dog before the public. The colour of the dog was very choice, in his coat there was little to be desired in the way of improvement, and with these qualities he had the modern fancy point of extraordinary length. Another good dog bred by Mr. Newington is Rosehill Rush, afterwards shown by Mr. C. F. C. Luxmore.

The teams Mr. Woolland so often wins with are about perfect in form and shape, not too long nor too low, sometimes not too big in the ears; but their jackets are usually rather silky, which no doubt arises from the fact of their being specially

groomed for show ring purposes. His Bridford Battle, dam of the beautiful bitch Bridford Naomi, was own sister to Mr. Newington's good bitch, Countess of Rosehill, and so the two leading kennels have blood in common. Mr. Woolland at the present time no doubt possesses the strongest kennel of Sussex spaniels ever held by one man, and all his dogs and bitches are uniform and breed true to type. His Bridford Breda Boy and Queenie, and best of all Bridford Giddie, have perhaps never been surpassed for excellence, and, it may be noted, that at the Kennel Club's show in 1896, three-fourths of the Sussex spaniels shown were bred by Mr. Woolland. Attention, however, to the production of show points by extreme care and skilfulness has mainly brought the London dogs to the front, though, perhaps, if it came to a matter of work, the Ticehurst kennel might prevail. Both are good, whilst Mr. Salter is only beaten by either because he has given his attention more to other varieties than to the Sussex spaniels. Mr. G. Carrington, Missenden; Mr. R. Chapman, Glenboig, and one or two others take considerable pains in endeavouring to bring the variety to perfection, whilst near Alnwick, in Northumberland, the Rev. W. Shield, an old spaniel breeder, is seldom without a few liver-coloured spaniels which he keeps for work. The weight of

the Sussex spaniel should not be more than 50lb. for a dog, and from 40lb. to 45lb. for a bitch.

The following are the Club's scale of points, and their latest description of the Sussex spaniel.

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head	10	Light eyes	5
Eyes	5	Narrow head	10
Nose	5	Weak muzzle	10
Ears	10	Curled ears or high set on	5
Neck	5	Curled coat	15
Chest and shoulders	5	Carriage of stern	5
Back and back ribs	10	Top-not	10
Legs and feet	10	White on chest	5
Tail	5	Colour (toolight or too dark)	15
Coat	5	Legginess or light of bone	5
Colour	15	Shortness of body or flat sided	5
General appearance	15	General appearance, sour or crouching	10
—		—	
Total Positive Points ...	100	Total Negative Points ...	100

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

“*Head*.—The skull should be moderately long and also wide, with an indentation in the middle and a full stop, brows fairly heavy; occiput full, but not pointed, the whole giving an appearance of heaviness without dulness.

“*Eyes*.—Hazel colour, fairly large, soft and languishing, not shewing the haw overmuch.

“*Nose*.—The muzzle should be about three inches

long, square, and the lips somewhat pendulous. The nostrils well developed and liver colour.

"Ears.—Thick, fairly large, and lobe shaped; set moderately low, but relatively not so low as in the black field spaniel; carried close to the head, and furnished with soft, wavy hair.

"Neck.—Is rather short, strong, and slightly arched, but not carrying the head much above the level of the back. There should not be much throatiness in the skin, but well marked frill in the coat.

"Chest and Shoulders.—The chest is round, especially behind the shoulders, deep and wide, giving a good girth. The shoulders should be oblique.

"Back and Back Ribs.—The back and loin is long, and should be very muscular, both in width and depth; for this development the back ribs must be deep. The whole body is characterised as low, long, level, and strong.

"Legs and Feet.—The arms and thighs must be bony, as well as muscular, knee and hocks large and round, and with short hair between the toes. The legs should be very short and strong, with great bone, and may show a slight bend in the forearm, and be moderately well feathered. The hind-legs should not be apparently shorter than the fore-legs, or be too much bent at the hocks, so as to give a setterly appearance, which is so

objectionable. The hind-legs should be well feathered above the hocks but should not have much hair below this point. The hocks should be short and wide apart.

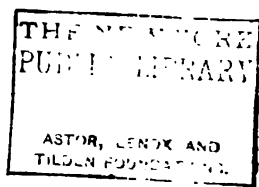
"*Tail*.—Should be docked from five to seven inches, set low, and not carried above the level of the back, thickly clothed and moderately long feather.

"*Coat*.—Body coat abundant, flat or slightly waved, with no tendency to curl; moderately well feathered on legs and stern, but clean below the hocks.

"*Colour*.—Rich golden liver; this is a certain sign of the purity of the breed, dark liver or puce denoting unmistakably a recent cross with the Black or other variety of Field Spaniel.

"*General appearance*.—Rather massive and muscular, but with free movements and nice tail action, denoting a tractable and cheerful disposition. Weight from 35lb. to 45lb."

It will be seen from the above Club standard that a somewhat lighter weight is allowed than is alluded to in my description. However, I must say that I have not yet, so far as I am aware, seen a good specimen of the pure Sussex spaniel so small as 35lb., and, on the contrary, some of the most perfect dogs I have met must have closely approached 50lb.





CHAPTER XV.

THE BLACK FIELD SPANIEL.

IF the black spaniel, as seen at our modern shows, can be taken as a distinct variety—and I think that it can—we must consider him as a comparatively recent introduction. None of the old writers mention him, nor have artists of a past generation drawn him. It may be safely said that he is bred for show purposes alone—his sleek, silken coat, glossy and bright even as the sheen on the raven's wing, making him a most attractive and ornamental creature. For actual hard work and use in the field he has many superiors. As a fact, such dogs as gain the chief prizes on our show benches are kept for that purpose alone. They are brushed and groomed methodically and with as much regularity as a maiden will attend to her own toilet. A ramble in the rain, or a gallop in the fields, a scurry after the rabbits in the covert, are not the part and parcel of the education of the black spaniel, at any rate during that time of

life he is in his prime, when mooning and sleeping away the dreary hours on the show benches.

Of late years so much attention has been given these black spaniels that there are men who have actually attained a degree of celebrity on account of the skill they display in obtaining a perfectly flat coat and a shining one. This a good specimen must have. Then his ears cannot be too long, well clothed with hair and fringed at the tips; his head, too, may be an exaggeration, long, with not the most peculiarly pleasing spaniel expression and eye that one would like to see. Some of our heavier black spaniels have enormous heads, square and untypical, with eyes displaying a haw that would not be out of place in a bloodhound. I need scarcely say that when dogs of this kind are given prizes, the judges who make such awards are wrong.

Length of body, shortness of leg, and enormous bone are again produced to an exaggeration; crooked forelegs have followed, and the black spaniel, once perhaps a useful and active animal, has now fallen into the heavy, slow ranks of the Clumber (but by no means so interesting a creature), and may be taken as a sound example of what can be done in the matter of breeding "for show points."

I have always taken my line for perfection in a black spaniel from that charming bitch, Nellie,

(born in 1869) Mr. Phineas Bullock used to show when he resided near Bilston. Afterwards she passed into the hands of Captain Arbuthnot, of Montrose. Nellie was simply perfect in her line, sweet in expression, lovely in size and hang of ears, straight in coat (not so flat as that of to-day), active and smart, not too heavy in bone, or short on leg, or long in back, and, from her appearance, would have been an excellent bitch to shoot over. Her weight I would take to be about 35lb. She was by Young Bebb out of Flirt, and, through the latter, went back to Mr. F. Burdett's old strain, which, indeed, is found more or less in all the best spaniel blood of to-day.

Mr. Burdett had been the secretary of the earlier Birmingham shows, and his spaniels, which seldom went over about 30lb. weight or so, he had originally from a Mr. Footman, who lived near Lutterworth in Leicestershire. After the death of Mr. Burdett, the strain went into the hands of Mr. Jones, of Oscott, Mr. P. Bullock, and others, and that it proved extremely valuable the stud books attest. It crossed well into other strains, of whatever colour, and from them our field spaniels are what they are now, excepting that the real Sussex has been kept as free from the black blood as possible.

Following Messrs. Burdett, Bullock, and others,

came Mr. H. B. Spurgin, of Northampton ; Mr. W. Gillett, of Hull ; Dr. W. W. Boulton, of Beverley ; Mr. Schofield, of Morpeth, who all took great pains to sustain the excellence of the black spaniel, and even to improve its appearance. That they did the latter I scarcely believe, and such dogs as Nellie, already mentioned, Old Bob and Flirt, her kennel companions, have, at any rate, never been excelled, maybe never equalled.

With an increase in the weight of the dog, crooked legs began to prevail, and they in time became so common as to be overlooked by the judges, and a dog called Beverlac, though very bad in this particular, in his day won no end of prizes ; he was about 54lb. in weight, and thus too big.

Then Mr. T. Jacobs, of Newton Abbot, began to put in an appearance at our dog shows, and proved so successful at Birmingham and elsewhere as to almost take all the prizes on several occasions, and sold some of his dogs for enormous sums. One bitch went to Mr. M. Woolland for £250 ; this was Bridford Perfection, whose sire and dam had both been bred by Mr. Jacobs. She was of great length and had particularly short legs ; her head was very good indeed, but personally I never liked her shoulders. Some judges pronounced her the best spaniel ever bred.

Mr. Jacobs made no secret of his strain, the individual specimens of which were always shown in the pink of condition, a fact which he attributed to feeding his favourites on nothing but flesh. I fancy that fresh air and exercise had more to do with this good growth and bright coat than the actual diet. He also tells me that he does not believe in there being at any time any distinct colour variety of spaniels.

Mr. Jacobs had been breeding spaniels for some years before he showed them, and the first black specimen he had was as far back as 1874. This dog, Nigger, was by Mr. Bullock's Palm, from his Flirt, and the foundation of this most successful kennel was laid from this dog and a team of four bitches obtained from the late Mr. S. Lang. The best of them were by Rolf out of Belle, the former from the strain that Dr. Boulton had.

However, not contented with these good specimens of pure blood, Mr. Jacobs went further afield, and the well-known liver-coloured dog Bachelor became his at the same time that he obtained a Sussex bitch called Russet from the Rev. W. Shield; and from this stock the Newton Abbot kennels must have produced hundreds of winners of all colours, for the great part heavy and medium-sized dogs. The sale of Bridford

Perfection has already been noted, and the last dozen dogs Mr. Jacobs sold realised £1500.

Of course, Mr. Jacobs had bred and mated his dogs and bitches carefully, and succeeded in producing spaniels longer in the body, lower on the leg, and with greater bone than any of his predecessors had done, and, had he kept his strain more to himself, there is no doubt as a spaniel breeder he would have taken a higher position even than the one he did attain. It may be stated as a guide to future breeders, that even the purest bred black bitches and black dogs of Mr. Jacobs never yet had a litter that wholly took after their parents. Browns or livers, brown and white, black and tan, black, black and white, even the handsome mired or roan colours at times appeared.

Mr. J. F. Farrow, of the Fountains, Ipswich, has a strain of admirable " blacks " which produce a fairly distinct type, and his dogs Buckle and Gipping Sam are exceedingly good specimens, not so abnormally short on the leg and heavy in body as to prevent them being useful sporting dogs.

Mr. Woolland has in his kennels some of the best black spaniels, for the most part bred by himself, and of much the same strain as that

with which Mr. Jacobs has been so successful. His Bridford Tommy, Bridford Brilliant, and Bridford Gipsy are all well nigh perfection, and formed a team at a recent show that proved quite invincible. Mr. J. Smith, Coleshill, Warwickshire, has likewise a strong team, his Lady Lass, Nebo, Doris and one or two others being able to hold their own in any competition.

Mr. T. Marples, Reddish, near Stockport, has often lately had some exceedingly fine black spaniels of the show strains. Major Moreton Thomas, Bromwood Court, Pembridge, has a capital kennel. Mr. R. Pratt, Bradford, Yorks.; Mr. C. Lawrence, Chesterton, Cambridge; Mr. R. C. Howarth, Hindley, near Wigan; Mr. Kitchingman, near York; Mr. H. B. Spurgin, Northampton; Rev. E. Mortlock and Mr. W. R. Prance, Bexhill; Mr. H. Haylock, Chelmsford; Mr. E. Clarke, Stockport; Mr. R. Chapman, Glenboig; Mr. F. E. Schofield, Morpeth; Mr. H. Pollard, whose Rother Queen was one of the best being shown during 1896; Major Claude Cane, Celbridge, co. Kildare; Mr. Joseph Royle, Manchester, and others, have at one time or another exhibited charming specimens of the black spaniel. Perhaps, taken altogether, this variety is the most popular of all the field spaniels of the present day.

The Club's description and points of the black spaniel are as follows :

POSITIVE POINTS.	NEGATIVE POINTS.
Head and jaw 15	Light eyes..... 20
Eyes..... 5	Light nose 15
Ears 5	Curled Ears..... 10
Neck..... 5	Curled Coat..... 10
Body 10	Carriage of back 10
Fore-legs 10	Bad top-knot 15
Hind-legs..... 10	White on chest..... 10
Feet..... 10	Crooked forelegs..... 10
Stern 10	
Coat and Feather 10	
General Appearance 10	
Total Positive Points... 100	Total Negative Points... 100

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

“*Head*.—Should be quite characteristic of this grand sporting dog, as is that of the bloodhound or bulldog, its very stamp and countenance should at once convey the conviction of high breeding, character, and nobility ; skull well developed, with a distinctly elevated occipital tuberosity, which, above all, gives the character alluded to ; not too wide across muzzle, long and lean, never snipy nor squarely cut, and, in profile, curving gradually from nose to throat : lean beneath eyes—a thickness here gives coarseness to the whole head. The great length of muzzle gives surface for the free

development of the olfactory nerve, and thus secures the highest possible scenting powers.

"Eyes.—Not too full, but not small, receding, or overhung; colour, dark hazel or dark brown, or nearly black; grave in expression, and bespeaking unusual docility and instinct.

"Ears.—Set low down as possible, which greatly adds to the refinement and beauty of the whole head; moderately long and wide, and sufficiently clad with nice setter-like feather.

"Neck.—Very strong and muscular, so as to enable the dog to retrieve his game without undue fatigue; not too short, however.

"Body (including size and symmetry).—Long and very low, well ribbed up to a good strong loin, straight or slightly arched, never slack; weight from about 35lb. to 45lb.

"Nose.—Well developed, with good open nostrils, and always black in colour.

"Shoulders and Chest.—Former sloping and free—latter deep and well developed, but not too round and wide.

"Back and Loin.—Very strong and muscular; level, and long in proportion to the height of the dog.

"Hind Quarters.—Very powerful and muscular, wide, and fully developed.

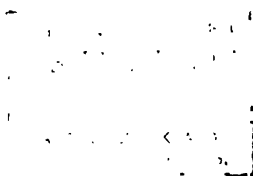
"*Stern*.—Well set on, and carried low, if possible below the level of the back, in a perfectly straight line, or with a slight downward inclination; never elevated above the back, and in action always kept low; nicely fringed, with wavy feather of silky texture.

"*Feet and Legs*.—Feet not too small and well protected between the toes with soft feather; good strong pads. Legs straight and immensely boned, strong and short, and nicely feathered with flat or waved setter-like feather. Over-much feathering below hocks objectionable.

"*Coat*.—Flat or slightly waved, and never curled—sufficiently dense to resist the weather, and not too short—silky in texture, glossy and refined in nature, with neither duffelness on the one hand nor curl or wireness on the other; on chest, under belly, and behind the legs there should be abundant feather, but never too much, and that of the right sort, namely, setter-like. The tail and hind quarters should be similarly adorned.

"*Colour*.—Jet black throughout, glossy and true. A little white on chest, though a drawback, not a disqualification.

"*General Appearance*.—That of a sporting dog, capable of learning and doing anything possible for his inches and conformation. A grand combination of beauty and utility."





ARTIST WHOLE

CHAPTER XVI.

THE NORFOLK SPANIEL.

I AM somewhat at a loss to know why the ordinary liver and white spaniel came to be distinguished by the Spaniel Club as the Norfolk spaniel (the Club description, appended, says it may be black and white), for surely it is quite as common a commodity in any county in England as it has ever been in that from which it is supposed to have derived its name. Some say it was used there to assist the shooters on the Broads, but a similar dog has from time out of mind been used by shooters in other parts of the country. Personally, I do not consider the liver and white spaniel any particular variety at all, nor do I believe that it has ever been indigenous to Norfolk. Devonshire, for instance, has attained a celebrity for hardy spaniels that had to work in the rough country with which the county of lanes abounds, and do their work well. Many of these were liver and white in colour, others black and white. They never came from Norfolk, nor

did the Devonshire men ever claim them as a distinct variety.

Youatt, writing in 1845, says the breed was first brought into note by the late Duke of Norfolk, who was supposed to have produced them by crossing with a black and tan terrier and a springer, the latter an ordinary spaniel. This, however, is not at all likely to be correct, for, long prior to that time, brown and white spaniels were found. Indeed, I fancy such was the prevailing spaniel colour. Far more likely the so-called Norfolk spaniel was produced originally by a cross between a curly-coated water spaniel and one of the ordinary Sussex or other strain.

Now, liver and white spaniels, almost infinite in shape and size, may be seen running about the streets in any country place. The sporting shop-keeper considers him the best shooting dog; and so he may be when properly trained—for he is a leggier, closer and better coated animal than the ordinary spaniel we see when standing at the ring side. He will retrieve well from both land and water, work a hedgerow or thick covert, and indeed do anything that is the special work of a spaniel.

Some of these liver and white spaniels are comparatively mute, whilst others are terribly noisy—yelping and giving tongue when hunting, almost as freely as a hound. Still, the chances are that the

rustic sportsman who keeps but one dog, and has not accommodation for more, prefers a liver and white spaniel, be it Norfolk or otherwise, and, as a rule, if he be not addicted to poaching, prefers it to make a noise when rabbiting in the dense gorse coverts.

The Club points and description are as follows :

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head, jaw, and eyes	20	Carriage of stern	5
Ears	10	Top-knot	5
Neck	10		
Body	10		
Fore-legs	10		
Hind-legs	10		
Feet.....	5		
Stern	5		
Coat and feather	10		
General appearance	10		
	—		—
Total positive points ...	100	Total negative points	10
	—		—

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

“ *Head*.—Skull long and rather narrow ; a stop ; the muzzle long and broad to the end.

“ *Eyes*.—Rather small, bright and intelligent.

“ *Neck*.—Long, strong, slightly arched.

“ *Ears*.—Strong, low set, and lobular.

“ *Body (including size and symmetry)*.—Fairly heavy body ; legs rather longer than in other field

spaniels, but not so long as in Irish. Medium size.

" *Nose*.—Large and soft.

" *Shoulders and Chest*.—Shoulders long and sloping; chest deep and fairly broad.

" *Back and Loin*.—Back flat and strong; loin rather long, flat, and strong.

" *Hind Quarters*.—Long; hocks well let down stifles moderately bent, and not twisted inwards nor outwards.

" *Stérn*.—Docked; low carried, *i.e.*, not above the level of the back.

" *Feet and Legs*.—Strong boned legs, inclining to shortness; feet large and rather flat.

" *Coat*.—Hard, not woolly; not curly, but may be broken.

" *Colour*.—Liver and white and black and white.

" *General Appearance*.—An active, useful medium-sized dog."





CHAPTER XVII.

SPANIELS OTHER THAN BLACK.

AS CLASSES are provided for "Field Spaniels other than black" (not being Clumbers, Sussex, or cockers), and as such are entered in the Stud Books, allusion must be made to them here. Their varied colouring gives them a hardier appearance than is observable in the blacks; their coats are often crisper and denser, or maybe they appear to be so in the absence of the raven gloss. It must not be forgotten that they spring from the same strain as the black variety.

The most common colours are black and tan; black and white, flecked more or less; brown, grey, and white approaching a roan; black, tan, and white; liver or brown and tan, and any variations of these many hues. Orange and white or yellow is seldom seen, and when this colour does crop up, it is a sign of a not very remote cross with the setter or the Clumber spaniel.

In respect to general shape and character they

are in common with the black, though, excepting in the case of the black and tan, the haw, to which exception is taken, is seldom apparent. The handsomest colours are the roans, black tan and white, and the black and white ticked, and the latter is exactly the same colour as the early spaniels drawn for Aldrovandus, who, over three hundred and fifty years ago, wrote of them as "pantherius." So, however shape and type may have altered, the colour does not appear to have changed to any very great extent.

The liver and white variety has somehow or other become identified with the county of Norfolk, and known as the Norfolk spaniel, is dealt with on preceding pages.

He is, however, common to all parts of the country where such dogs are used for work, and will retrieve, hunt the day out and through, and is not excelled by any of his race as thoroughly a sportsman's dog. Some of the very best rabbiting spaniels I have ever seen were liver and white, and the only fault that could be found with them was more than a tendency to be hard in the mouth. Not an uncommon fault where a dog is employed almost entirely among rabbits, retrieving twenty or thirty couple a day, some of them struggling hard in the mouth and scratching with their feet.

I noticed a short time ago a very handsome strain of this race kept by Sir Thomas Boughey, at Aqualate, near Newport, Salop. The coats of these had more than a tendency to curl; their character at work was excellent, and the specimens I saw appeared to be remarkably good tempered, well broken, not inclined to run riot, and only hunting when ordered to do so. On inquiry I learned that this particular breed had been in the family for many generations, and was likely to remain so in the future.

About twenty-four years ago Mr. Burgess, of Brighouse, Yorkshire, showed a couple of liver and white spaniels with great success, Sam and Flora by name. Bred by Mr. Hopcroft, of Nottingham, at that time they were said to be Sussex spaniels, but, although their breeder tried to maintain their reputation as such, it was pretty certain that they had no claim to be of that variety. Mr. Hopcroft had the strain for some time, and valued it exceedingly. Sam and Flora were brother and sister, of nice character, but, though they won all before them in their time, they were much higher on the leg than bench winners of to-day; they, however, excelled in length of ears.

There are extant two capital chromo-lithographs of these celebrated dogs, and the blood of both

of them is still to be found in many of the best specimens at the present time.

Mr. H. P. Green, at Caistor Hall, near Norwich, has a strain of black, tan, and white and roan spaniels, which he values highly. Personally, I never saw any dogs that took my fancy more than they did when I first saw them on the show bench. A little over 40lb. weight or so, they abound in character, are long in ears, fairly straight in coat, and strong in bone; still, handsome though they be, they are more valued for work, notwithstanding the fact that they have earned distinction on the show bench. Their owner tells me he has had the strain for a quarter of a century, commencing with a bitch obtained from the late Sir Richard Wallace, which was mated with a tri-coloured dog. Both were excellent in the field, and appear to have transferred their good qualities to their progeny. The strain is easily trained, possesses great sense, plenty of dash and go, and can stand the hardest work without ill effect. Mr. Green uses them as retrievers in Scotland amongst the grouse, much to the admiration of some of the old Highland sportsmen. These spaniels are also excellent dogs for snipe, duck, and mixed shooting of all kinds; they cannot be excelled as water dogs, and I am certain that animals so handsome and so good are well worth cultivating.

Some of the best bred dogs of this variety are Mr. F. E. Schofield's Selaw; Mr. J. Smith's Coles-hill Blue Boy; Mr. T. Harrington's Trumpington Don; Mr. F. C. Hignett's Crusader; Mr. J. H. Hussey's Rathgar Belle II.; Mr. R. Chapman's Heather Jean; and Mr. Le Gros' Old Ford Ted; but as a rule few appear on the bench, though their colour is so taking, and in other ways they seem attractive.

The Club descriptive particulars of any other variety of field spaniel are as follows, the points being similar to those adopted for the black variety, excepting, of course, as to colour:

"Head.—Similar to that of the black spaniel, save in colour.

"Eyes.—The colour in all cases to match the coat and markings, viz.: Black and Tans—hazel or brown; Liver and Tans—rather lighter than in black and tans, but of good rich tone; Livers—light hazel colour; Black Tan and White Roans, &c.—somewhat similar to liver and tans; Liver and Tan Roans, &c.—somewhat similar to liver and tans.

"Ears.—Similar to those of the black spaniel, except in colour.

"Neck.—Similar to that of the black spaniel.

"Body (including size and symmetry).—Similar to that of the black spaniel.

"*Nose*.—Variable, according to colour of coat and markings: Black and Tans—black; Liver and Tans—dark liver colour; Livers—liver; Black and Tan and White Roans—black; Liver and Tan Roans—liver.

"*Shoulders and Chest*.—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Back and Loin*.—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Hind Quarters*.—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Stern*.—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Feet and Legs*.—Similar to those of the black spaniel.

"*Coat*.—Similar in quality, substance, and texture, and in all other respects, except colour, responding to that given for black spaniels.

"*Colours*.—Various, such as black and tan, liver and tan, liver, black, tan, and white roans; liver, tan, and white roans, &c.

"*General Appearance*.—Similar in all respects, except in regard to colour and markings; identical with the general description given before for black spaniels."

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CHAPTER XVIII.

THE COCKER.

THIS, the smallest of our race of sporting spaniels, is retrograding rather than progressing, and, hardy, cheerful little dog though he be, sportsmen have found that a bigger dog can do his duties better, even to working rough covert, and it is not a general thing for a cocker to retrieve a rabbit or a hare. Indeed, some cockers I have had would not retrieve at all, nor did I blame them, for retrieving is a duty to be performed by a more powerful dog.

The prizes offered for the cocker on the show bench are not of particular value, nor do they carry sufficient honour, to make it worth the while of any one breeding him for such purpose alone, so, as a matter of fact, this once favoured little dog is not growing with the times in the manner which savours of success. Only the larger exhibitions give him classes of his own, and the prizes then do not always go to the genuine article.

The cocker of the olden time I should take to be the connecting link between the working and the

toy spaniels. We have been told that the Blenheims at Marlborough House were excellent dogs to work the coverts for cock and pheasant, and, excepting in colour, there is in reality not much difference in appearance between the older orange and white toys (not as they are to-day, with their abnormally short noses, round skulls, and enormous eyes) and the liver and white cockers H. B. Chalon drew for Daniel's "Rural Sports" in 1801.

Two of Chalon's little spaniels have just sprung a woodcock, and charming specimens they are, not too low on the leg, nor over-done in the matter of ears, but sprightly little dogs, evidently under 20lb. weight, and of a type we do not find to-day. Many of us lament the growing scarcity of this variety as he was to be found fifty years ago and more. Modern breeders tell us they have provided us with a better and handsomer animal. It is an open question whether they have done the former; I acknowledge they have done the latter.

Some few years ago I became the possessor of a brace of black cockers, the most beautiful little spaniels imaginable. How they were bred I am not aware. This I do know, that wherever they went they were admired more than any other dogs; not in the show ring—they never appeared there—but in the streets and the country generally. At that time

I was shooting a good deal, and had ample opportunity of entering them to game of every kind. As sporting dogs they were comparatively useless; for they were noisy, headstrong, not at all careful, and would pass half a dozen rabbits or pheasants whilst they were putting up three or four. My terriers could beat their heads off, and a cross-bred spaniel I had at that time could have outworked a big team of them.

Of course, this must not be taken as an inference that all these modern, extremely pretty black cockers are equally useless; but, from others that I have seen at work, I did not take mine to have been an especially unfortunate brace. The coats of some of them are not adapted to protect the hide of the dog from being pierced by those sharp thorns and prickly brambles that are to be found in every ordinary covert.

Some portions of Wales and Devonshire have produced the old working type of cocker, mostly liver and white in colour, higher on the leg than an ordinary field spaniel, not so long in ears, with a close coat, not too fine, usually inclining to be wavy and curly on the hind quarters, and a head finer in the muzzle than the ordinary spaniel would seem to possess, and with a character of its own.

About twenty-five years ago Dr. Boulton was exhibiting his Rhea, a black specimen which won a

great many prizes. She, however, had little or no strain of the cocker in her, and what excellence she possessed was imparted from the same blood that ran in the pedigree of Bullock's Nellie and other celebrities of her day.

Perhaps the best class of cockers I have ever seen was benched at Manchester in 1892. There were fourteen of them, in many types ; but amongst them specimens of both the old and modern style. Mr. H. J. Price, of Long Ditton, had an excellent team, his Ditton Brevity and Gaiety being particularly excellent—the one a blue and white, the other a tricolour. Mr. Carew-Gibson, of Fareham, in Grove Rose and Merry Belle, had a brace of beauties, also of the old type, and his first named won chief prize ; but other leading honours of third and reserve were given to miniature modern spaniels, both black, but certainly not like Rose and Brevity, that took first and second honours. Mr. Phillips' Rivington Merry Legs was another of the pure strain, a black and white, that, I believe, came from Exeter ; and at the most recent Manchester show, that in 1897, the latter exhibitor benched a brace of beauties, Rivington Bee and Sue, by Bruton Victor—Busy, which won leading honours in their group.

I have particularly drawn attention to these classes at Manchester in proof, if such were needed, that there

still remains material in the country to popularise the old-fashioned breed of cocker, and I fancy this would soon be done would judges, in making their awards, stick to one type and throw out those dogs that showed unusually heavy bone, long bodies, heavy heads, and over-sized ears. And I may go further than this, and say that I never yet saw a good and perfectly characteristic cocker that had a flat coat, was entirely black, or of that bright liver colour found in the Sussex. The correct colours are either mixed roan or a dull brown and white or black and white and brown, but the latter have white on the chest and often enough white feet also.

Mr. J. F. Farrow, of Ipswich, owns an excellent strain of small black spaniels, one or two of which are of the cocker type I approve. Some of them are miniature specimens of the black field spaniel, and from which they are bred, but his Frank Obo, Ted Obo, and Lily Obo, are quite of the correct old-fashioned type. Mr. J. W. Caless, Shipton-on-Stour; Mr. H. Singleton, Leamington Spa; Miss F. Canham, Forest Gate, own some of the best specimens of the day, their Brutus, Floss, Ladas, and Liko Joko usually winning when they appear in the ring.

In weight the cocker ought not to exceed 25lb. at the very most, and bitches of 20lb. or less are the desirable size. As I have already hinted, they

should not be so high on the leg, so long in the body, so heavy in the ears, or so heavy in the muzzle as an ordinary field spaniel, and may be taken as sharp, active little creatures, always busy when at work, and specially smart in driving rabbits from a gorse covert or other rough place.

The Spaniel Club separate the black cockers from those of any other colour, and evidently give precedence to the former, their descriptive scale for judging which is as follows :

POSITIVE POINTS.		NEGATIVE POINTS.	
Head and jaw	10	Light eyes (undesirable. but not fatal)	10
Eyes	5	Light nose (fatal)	15
Ears	5	Curled ears (very undesirable)	15
Neck	5	Curled coat (curly, woolly, or wiry)	20
Body	15	Carriage of stern (crooked or twisted)	20
Fore-legs	10	Top-knot (fatal)	20
Hind-legs ...	10		
Feet.....	10		
Stern	10		
Coat and feather	10		
General appearance	10		
Total positive points ...		Total negative points...	
100		100	

DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

“ *Head*.—Not so heavy in proportion, and not so high in occiput as in the modern field spaniel, with a nicely developed muzzle or jaw; lean, but not snipy, and yet not so square as in the Clumber or Sussex varieties, but always exhibiting a sufficiently

wide and well-developed nose. Forehead perfectly smooth, rising without a too decided stop from muzzle into a comparatively wide and rounded well-developed skull, with plenty of room for brain power.

"Eyes.—Full, but not prominent, hazel or brown coloured, with a general expression of intelligence and gentleness, though decidedly wide awake, bright and merry, never gozzled nor weak, as in the King Charles and Blenheim kinds.

"Ears.—Lobular, set on low, leather fine and not extending beyond the nose, well clothed with long, silky hair, which must be straight or wavy—no positive curls or ringlets.

"Neck.—Strong and muscular, and neatly set on to fine sloping shoulders.

"Body (including size and symmetry).—*Not quite so long and low* as in the other breeds of spaniels, *more compact and firmly knit together*, giving the impression of a concentration of power and untiring activity ; the total weight should not exceed 25lb.

"Nose.—Sufficiently wide and well developed to insure the exquisite scenting powers of this breed. Colour black.

"Shoulders and Chest.—The former sloping and fine, chest deep and well developed, but not too wide and round to interfere with the free action of the forelegs.

"*Back and Loin.*—Immensely strong and compact in proportion to the size and weight of the dog; slightly drooping towards the tail.

"*Hind Quarters.*—Wide, well rounded, and very muscular, so as to insure untiring action and propelling power under the most trying circumstances of a long day, bad weather, rough ground, and dense covert.

"*Stern.*—That most characteristic of *blue blood* in all the spaniel family, may, in the lighter and more active *Cocker*, although *set low down*, be allowed a slightly higher carriage than in the other breeds, but never cocked up over, but rather in a line with the back, though the lower its carriage and action the better, and when at work its action should be incessant in this, the brightest and merriest of the whole spaniel family.

"*Feet and Legs.*—The legs must be well boned, feathered and straight, for the tremendous exertions expected from this grand little sporting dog, and should be sufficiently short for concentrated power, but not so short as to interfere with its full activity. Feet firm, round, and catlike, not too large, spreading and loose jointed. This distinct breed of spaniel does not follow exactly on the lines of the larger field spaniel, either in lengthiness, lowness, or otherwise; but is shorter in back, and rather higher on the legs.

" *Coat*.—Flat or waved, and silky in texture, never wiry, woolly, nor curly, with sufficient feather of the right sort, viz. waved or setter-like, but not too profuse, and never curly.

" *Colour*.—Jet black; a white shirt frill should never disqualify; but white feet should not be allowed in any specimen of self-colour.

" *General Appearance*.—Confirmatory of all indicated above, viz., a concentration of pure blood and type, sagacity, docility, good temper, affection, and activity."

The Club scale for judging any other variety of cocker :

" POSITIVE POINTS.	NEGATIVE POINTS.
Same as in the Black Variety.	Subject to colour similar to those of the Black Variety.

" *Head*.—Similar to that of the black cocker.

" *Eyes*.—Dependent on colour and markings.

" *Ears*.—Similar to those of the black cocker.

" *Neck*.—Similar to that of the black cocker.

" *Body (including size and symmetry)*.—Similar to that of the black cocker.

" *Nose*.—The colour will be dependent on the colour of coat and markings, in all other respects similar to the black cocker.

" *Shoulders and Chest*.—Similar to those of the black cocker.

" *Back and Loin.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

" *Hind Quarters.*—Similar in all respects to that described in the black cocker.

" *Stern.*—Identical with that of the black cocker.

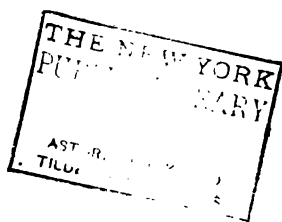
" *Feet and Legs.*—Similar to those of the black cocker.

" *Coat.*—Similar in every way to the coat of the black variety, except in colour or markings.

" *Colour.*—Black and tan, liver and tan, liver, black tan and white, liver tan and white, lemon and white, roans, and in fact nearly every combination or blending of colours.

" *General Appearance.*—In all respects agreeing with the description given for the black variety of this breed."

Throughout these chapters on spaniels it will be seen that I have dwelt rather strongly on the show dogs as somewhat different from those usually used for shooting purposes. That I am not wrong in doing so has been borne out by the fact that a club is being formed for the encouragement of spaniels for work, and its members believe that they can benefit the variety considerably by holding field trials, and in other ways preventing it from losing such attributes as have made it so popular a dog with sportsmen generally.





CHAPTER XIX.

THE BASSET-HOUND.

IN this handsome hound we have another example of the naturalisation of a foreign dog in this country. A quarter of a century ago he was a great favourite in France, and some other parts of the Continent, where he for years had been bred with great care; in England he was almost unknown. Now he is one of our own varieties, at least he is claimed as such, and even "Stonehenge," so loth to adopt anything for ourselves that did not belong to us, so far back as 1881, gave him a place amongst his "Dogs of the British Isles." The Kennel Club acknowledged him in their stud-book by classification in 1883, when but ten entries were made; there were thirty-eight in 1891; and ninety at the Kennel Club's show in 1896; whilst the Curzon Hall committee at Birmingham moved the Basset from the variety class to one of its own in 1882.

Sir Everett Millais, who took the initiative with

regard to the Basset's introduction in this country, supplies me with the following valuable history and particulars of this hound :

" Before I commence a description of the various kinds of Bassets and their especial points, it might be advantageous to touch upon the origin of the word Basset, since it has been my misfortune, not once but many times, to listen to the most absurd reasons for the nomenclature of the hound. Briefly the word basset means 'a low thing' or a 'dwarf,' and it has a similar derivation to the words bassinette, basset (the game), bastard, basse (a shoal), and many others which it is unnecessary for me to give, all of which have a common ancestor in the French adjective 'bas.'

" The meaning, then, of the word being almost apparent on the face of it, notwithstanding the fact that I have heard people urge with the greatest gravity that the Basset is a hound used for the purpose of hunting the basset, in the same way that the foxhound pursues the fox. It might also be interesting to observe how the hound became a dwarf, for if it be a dwarf, and this is what its name undoubtedly implies, it is obvious that it must be a dwarf of some other race of hound.

" It is also obvious that as there exist many varieties of Bassets in France, Belgium, Austria, and

Germany, they too are dwarfs of some form of hounds.

“To account for this somewhat extraordinary assumption I must go back in the history of these countries to somewhat remote periods, and ask the reader what the use in those days, that is to say the days when men did not take the trouble to hunt small game, and the modern weapons of sport were still uninvented, would have been for such a hound as the Basset, which to-day, in France and Belgium especially, is looked upon as one of the best companions the sportsman can have by him.

“I need hardly say that such a hound as the Basset, when men followed the chase on horseback and looked upon rabbits and hares as vermin, would have been quite out of place, and the only logical conclusion one can come to as to the origin of these hounds is, that as men took up the chase of the smaller game a slower hound was required—a type of hound which would at once be produced by breeding only from those that were short in the leg, and consequently slower in speed. Breeding from such hounds, it must be observed, would but tend to decrease the height, and not the bodily proportions, coat, or form of head.

“In due time, as weapons made their appearance—and by weapons I especially mean when guns

came into use—a slower dog still was required, which would either hunt in front of the sportsman or drive game slowly towards him.

“This type of hound would be produced by again breeding from the lowest and heaviest of his predecessors, and, what with the weight in front and the question of stability, the internal ligaments of the carpus would give way, the fore-feet would turn out so as to act as buttresses to the chest wall, and in the animal thus produced we should find a hound of full-sized body, of similar head and colour to the hounds from which it sprang, identical in fact with them except in this peculiar formation of the front and hind feet.

“Such undoubtedly is the manner in which the Basset originated, and what is still more remarkable is the fact that the tallest of the Bassets are the straight-legged ones, the medium the half-crooked, and the lowest the full-crooked, thus showing alone the gradual change which has been wrought by man to bring the great *chiens courants* down to the dwarfs or the Bassets of to-day.

“Had this manufacture, as I may reasonably call it, been limited to one breed of hound, we should naturally find but one breed of Bassets, but this is not so, since from the great variety of Bassets to be found in the countries I have named, it is certain

that many breeds of hounds have been thus dealt with.

“As a result Bassets abroad are to be found smooth in coat, wire-haired and rough, straight-legged, half-crooked and full-crooked, and had we imported and bred all the varieties together, my task of describing them would have been somewhat difficult. I am glad, however, to say that we have stuck pretty closely to one strain in the smooths, and am in hopes that the same will follow in the Griffons, consequently in classifying them as we have them, or had them in this country, for one of the smooths has all but disappeared, I can name them as the Basset Français, and the Basset Griffon, the former being the smooth coated and the latter rough.

“In France every smooth-coated Basset is called a Basset Français, whether it be big, little, straight-legged or crooked, tricolour, lemon and white, or any hound colour whatever. The two strains which have been imported into this country are those which combine size with lowness in front and crook, tricolour or lemon and white markings, and, what is more to the point, the true hound type of those hounds from which they are descended. These two strains are the Le Couteulx and The Lane, originating respectively in the ‘Artois’ and ‘Poitevin.’

“The strain of the Le Couteulx hounds owes its origin to Mons. Le Comte le Couteulx le Cantalan, of Chateau St. Martin, near Etrepagny, one of the foremost sportsmen and the acknowledged authority on hunting and kennel matters in France, and from him takes its name.

“In it we find two modern types, both due to two hounds, viz., Fino de Paris, formerly the property of the Count, and Termino, the property of Mons. Masson—both of which I shall have to speak of again; but as the difference between them is but of small importance, I will give a general outline of the type of the strain first, and revert to the small differences between them afterwards.

“In general appearance the Le Couteulx is a good sized hound, generally tricolour, but not uncommonly lemon and white, of heavy build and set on short legs, the fore ones being exceedingly massive and crooked.

“Taking the various portions of his body in order, we find the head to be large and set gracefully on the neck, which should be somewhat arched; the head should be domed, of considerable length, and narrow in comparison with its length, though far from weak. It should be of great depth, and the sides should be clean cut and free from any appearance of, or inclination to, cheek bumps.

“The nose should be inclined to the Roman type, and be set on in a line with the external occipital protuberance, any dipping of a pronounced type or stop being unsightly. The nose itself should be strong and free from snipiness, while the teeth of the upper and lower jaws should meet. A pig-jawed hound, or one that is underhung, being distinctly objectionable.

“The lips should be square and not cut sharply away, and from the lower jaw extensive flews should fall towards the throat.

“The eye should be deeply sunken, showing a prominent haw, and in colour they should be a deep brown.

“The ears should be set on low; are of great length, of velvety texture, and should curl gracefully inwards; their outer surface coming towards the base in contact with the side of the cheek and neck.

“The whole of the head should be covered with loose skin, so loose in fact, that when the hound brings its nose to the ground the skin over the head and cheeks should fall forward and wrinkle sensibly. In a word, the head of the Basset should resemble and approach as nearly as possible the bloodhound in conformation. The neck is massive but graceful, and as it approaches the body it thickens.

“ The body itself is extremely powerful, and shows, as it is united with the sacrum, a graceful rise, which disappears at the base or set on of the tail.

“ If the animal were not so low to the ground its body would not appear of such length as it appears to be. At the same time, it is a lengthy body, but well supported by ribs ; and as the ribs cease and we approach the sternum or chest, we find this to be capacious and of great width, the superior portion of the sternum standing out most prominently.

“ The body of the chest comes right down between the fore-legs, fitting tightly in an angle formed by the approximation of the two radial bones, which are of great thickness. Below this point the carpus is straight, but the metacarpus inclines outwards, and the phalanges or toes completely so.

“ In not a few specimens the carpus inclines forwards, thus giving the animal the appearance of knuckling over, which is a decided fault, and this is due largely to a forward inclination of the radius and ulna bones, which ought to incline inwards, and fit closely to the chest wall. On looking at the animal from the front we at once observe why the legs assume this peculiar formation, viz., inclining inwards from the elbow joint to the wrist joint, and then outwards again to the end of the toes.

“ If the legs of the heavy Le Couteulx were straight

the chest would hang between, and the whole weight of the body would necessarily be centered at the shoulder joint. Consequently the animal would be incapable of any active movement and much exposed to dislocation at that joint ; but as the legs incline inwards and then outwards the weight of the body is supported below the chest, viz., at the carpus, the latter being, as it were, the keystone on which the entire weight of the body falls. As a result it is at this point we should expect to find trouble if any portion of the architecture was out of position. I have drawn particular attention to the anatomy of the Bassets here, for it is at this joint we discover unsoundness if present, the reason being, as I have previously observed, that the radius and ulna bones are thrown too far forward, and not placed or gathered sufficiently behind the spot where the whole weight of the body converges.

“To be absolutely sound and perfect in legs, the Basset ought to stand in front between two and three inches from the ground, and in such a manner that if a plummet were dropped from the set on of the neck right through the dog it would touch the ground between the toes, and in front of the carpus.

“The hind legs are massive, like those in front, and should stand well below the hound to bear the weight of the back portion of his body. They are

very muscular, as may be expected, seeing the great weight in front which they have to propel.

“The tail is of considerable length and should be carried gaily, though not so as to curl over the back.

“Our most perfect Bassets of the present day are undoubtedly Mr. F. B. Craven's Forester, Mrs. G. Walsh's Paris and Xena, and Dr. Woodhead's Geraldine, and I regret much that I have not their weights and measurements. I shall, however, not be wrong in giving those of my old Model, who, though rather flat in skull and having badly hung ears, was otherwise as perfect a specimen in other particulars as I ever hope to see.

“Measurements, &c., at seven and a half years of age: Weight, 46lb.; height at shoulder, 12 inches; length from tip of nose to set on of tail, 32 inches; length of tail, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of chest, 25 inches; girth of loin, 21 inches; girth of head, 17 inches; girth of fore-arm, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of head from tip of occiput to tip of nose, 9 inches; girth of muzzle at midway, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of ears from tip to tip, 19 inches; height from ground between fore-feet, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

“I think I have gone now pretty clearly through the points of the Basset as far as his bodily points are concerned, consequently there remain but his coat and colouring.

“In texture the coat should be that of a hound, and, on seizing it, the skin below should come away from the body, leaving the impression that the animal has much more skin than he requires. On no account should the skin fit closely to the body, and even on the fore-legs it should wrinkle, giving to the hound a ‘comfortable’ appearance.

“As to colour, I am afraid that I am one of those who believe that a good hound, like a good horse cannot be of a bad colour. I grant the fact that the heavily marked tricolour is very taking to the eye, and that the lemon and white, in comparison to the former, loses greatly in appearance. Still, colour is, after all, but a superficial point, except in breeds where it means much, consequently personally I should never in the judging ring allow colour to weigh greatly in my mind when it was a question of points and type between two animals. The colours then of the Basset are heavy tricolour, light tricolour, hair pie, lemon and white, and tricolour with blue mottles. The latter is particularly pretty and attractive.

“Having now dealt with the question of points, I will give a few particulars as to the introduction of the Basset into this country. The first note I have regarding them is one from Lord Galway, who informed me some years ago that he had been

presented with one or two, by Comte Tournon, of Montmelas. These in due time Lord Galway passed to Lord Onslow, but, as this strain is now extinct, I need not further dilate on them except to say that they were Le Couteulx hounds, far from inferior specimens, and all beautifully marked.

“Although they might have been known amongst those who had the personal friendship of the two peers I have named, to the general public they were entirely unknown, and it was not until the winter show at Wolverhampton, in 1875, where I showed Model, which I had procured from the Jardin d’Acclimation the previous year, that the British public had the opportunity of making the Basset hound’s acquaintance on the show bench. Model was bred by Comte le Couteulx, and with Fino de Paris stood at stud in the Jardin d’Acclimation when I first saw him, consequently I had the pick of the two best hounds France could then boast of.

“At that time I was unaware that Lord Onslow had Bassets. Had I known this I would have asked his permission to breed the dog to one of his bitches. But as I did not know this, and I could not then procure a bitch, I, on the advice of the late Mr. Lort, began breeding through a beagle, and in the second generation produced a winner.

“I must here observe that the difference between

the old-fashioned beagle and the Basset does not amount to much except in the legs, and two generations I found quite sufficient to reduce the beagles' legs to those of the Bassets', plus the racial peculiarity.

"In 1877, as Lord Onslow had, through me, obtained from Comte le Couteulx a dog and a bitch, I gave up the beagle line and, in 1878, began to breed pure-bred through Garenne, a bitch by Model out of Lord Onslow's Finette, which, with her brother Fino, he had imported the previous year. In 1880 I was able, through the use of that Fino to show in the first class, given for Bassets in England, namely, at Wolverhampton.

"Up to this date, then, the only owners and breeders of Bassets were Lord Onslow and myself; but in the spring of that year Mr. G. R. Krehl and Mr. Louis Clement imported Fino de Paris, Jupiter, Pallas, Guinevere, Theo, Vivien, and others which it is needless here to mention. By 1886 we were able to place 120 on the bench at the Dachshund and Basset show in the Aquarium. How many there are now in the country it would be difficult to say, but the number is very large, though the entries at shows are not as great as they might be.

"To return, however, to 1880, when Mr. Krehl imported Fino de Paris, it was observable that the

bitches Guinevere, Theo, and Vivien differed somewhat in type from Fino de Paris. I have already said that I had the opportunity of selecting this latter hound in 1874, at the Jardin d'Acclimatation, where he had been sent by Comte le Couteulx to stand at stud, and I may now mention that before being sent to Paris he had been bred from; the bitches Guinevere, Theo, and Vivien being descended from him.

"I here give their pedigrees: Trouvette by Fino de Paris by Fanfaro—Ravaude, by Fino de Paris—Mignarde II. by Fino—Mignarde I.; Finette out of Termino; Mignarde out of Termino; and Vivien by Fanfaro out of Theo. Thus, Fino de Paris, being put to Trouvette and Ravaude, produced from them respectively Mignarde and Fanfaro. He was then put to his daughter Mignarde, producing Finette, who in turn was put to Termino, this alliance producing Guinevere and Theo; the latter being put to Fanfaro, producing Vivien.

"Under these circumstances, and the inbreeding that had gone on, it is only just to suppose that in the three bitches I have named, we should have seen a strong personal resemblance or a strong family type in them to that of Fino de Paris. As a matter of fact they did not resemble Fino de Paris,

but had a common type amongst themselves, which was doubtless inherited from their sire, and in the case of Vivien, grandsire, namely, Termino. Consequently, I can only come to the conclusion that the breeder, from whom these hounds were imported, being desirous of an outcross after the inbreeding to Fino de Paris, put Finette to Termino and returned the produce again to a son of the old dog.

“ What Termino was, or how he was bred, remains an unfathomable mystery, notwithstanding the fact that I have made every inquiry ; but it appears to me reasonable to suppose that he was either a large Basset à Jambes Droites, or one of the small *chiens courants*, and for this reason, viz., the offspring Guinevere and Theo could hardly be called Bassets à Jambes Torses, while Vivien, got by one of Fino de Paris' sons, was directly described as such.

“ Now the reason I have largely entered into this question of breeding in France is for the following cause : When Fino de Paris and the three bitches were imported here he was put to Guinevere, and of this litter we had two well known hounds, viz., Fino V. and Bourbon. Fino V. was almost a counterpart of his sire, while Bourbon took after his mother's side of the house, and resembled the three bitches I have named.

“ Again, Fino V., on being put to Vivien, produced

another hound of Fino de Paris's type, viz., Fino VI.; whilst the same bitch, on being put to Bourbon, gave birth to D'Aumale and Chopette, who were clearly of a totally different stamp to Fino de Paris, and resembled Bourbon and the three bitches. As a result, I think there can be but little doubt that Termino was the cause of this difference, and what that difference is I will now explain.

"The Fino de Paris hounds take after their prototype, Fino de Paris. They are very heavily marked, except when lemon and white; they are much coarser in the coat than the Terminos; they are, as a rule, larger and heavier in the bone; and, finally, they are nearer to the ground and exceedingly torse in front.

"The Terminos differ where I have already pointed out, and, in addition, their skulls are not so domed and their markings are more regular—white playing a much larger part in the marking than in the Fino de Paris. In addition, their coats are much finer, shorter, and they are not built on such heavy lines.

"The most successful breeders in this country have been Lord Onslow, Mr. Krehl, Mr. Craven, Mrs. Stokes, and Mrs. Ellis, the latter at one time carrying all before her. Putting aside Lord Onslow, who has been away and given up Bassets for some years, it might be interesting to note, from a breeder's point of view, the gradual development

of this hound to modern times, from the mating of Fino de Paris and Trouvette, in France, something like a quarter of a century ago.

"In doing this, I shall apply myself to the Fino de Paris type alone, since the Bourbon is all but extinguished; and, having done so, I will ask the reader to believe that type cannot be got unless we inbreed, and that inbreeding does not necessarily deteriorate stock if properly carried out.

"To prove this, I give the names of the following hounds, and how they are inbred to the Fino de Paris: Mignarde, $\frac{1}{4}$; Finette, $\frac{3}{4}$; Guinevere, $\frac{3}{8}$; Fino V., $\frac{11}{16}$; Fino VI., $\frac{13}{32}$; Forester, $\frac{29}{64}$; Paris, $\frac{55}{128}$; and Xitta, $\frac{113}{256}$.

"What I show here is the direct succession from father to son or daughter, in all, eight generations of hounds. Under normal circumstances, had they been bred 'anyhow,' these hounds would begin at Mignarde with two parents, one of which was Fino de Paris, and finish at Xitta with no less than 258. By inbreeding, starting with Finette, she has two, Guinevere has three, Fino V. has the same number, Fino VI. has four, Forester has seven, Paris has eight, and Xitta has the same number.

"In all, except Guinevere, the defunct Fino de Paris might almost have been their real sire, and, as a standing proof of the necessity of inbreeding, the

only one that did not resemble him was Guinevere, who has not that amount of blood necessary.

"To anyone interested in the study of breeding, and especially breeding for individual type, I recommend them most strongly to get the Basset Hound Stud Book and work out the blood factors of the hounds there inscribed. On comparing them with past show reports and the hounds now on the bench, they will without any difficulty come to the conclusion that there is not a hound in this country worth the biscuits it is fed on, or can show the Fino de Paris type, that is not bred upon the lines I have shown these generations to be.

"My recollections of Fino de Paris are not such as will entitle me to describe him very accurately, but I may say this—viz., that I do not believe, grand hound as he was, that he could have compared favourably with the hounds that are on the bench to-day; and, furthermore, that France could not show a class of such character and type as we can bring together. The proof of this latter statement is to be found in the somewhat plaintive remark of a well-known French sportsman, who visits this country regularly, viz.: 'If we had known what you could produce from Fino de Paris, he would never have left the Jardin d'Acclimatation!'

"It will no doubt be interesting to note the

methods by which Mrs. Ellis, alluded to earlier on, contrived to obtain such a kennel that until lately she possessed. If my memory serves me aright, Mrs. Ellis bought her first Basset—a small bitch, named Venus II., by Champion Jupiter *ex* Venus—at the Warwick Show of 1886, and, by mating this bitch with Champion Fino VI. in 1887, Champion Psyche II. resulted. In 1889 she bred Champion Paris, Champion Xena, Napoleon II., and Miriam, from Psyche II. by Forester; and in the same year had another litter from Champion Fino VI. and Venus II., of which Cupid II. is a representative. In 1891, from Paris and Venus II., Isola and Marvel were produced; whilst, from the union of Forester and Xena, Zero and Xitta were obtained. Again, in 1892, a younger litter of brothers and sisters to Champion Xena and Paris made their appearance, to be heard of in the show ring when their time comes.

“However, leaving them for a moment, and forgetting entirely that in 1890 Mrs. Ellis acquired by purchase champion Forester, such a trio as Paris, Xena, and Isola would make the reputation of any kennel. Starting, as Mrs. Ellis did, in such a humble way, it only proves what can be done by sheer perseverance, and, if I may say so, a singular capacity for successful mating of hounds, the

progeny of such unions producing animals of the highest type. At the time when Mrs. Ellis had not only the above, but Champion Psyche, Champion Forester, and others, it is manifest her kennel was invincible. Towards the close of 1892 it was rumoured that her hounds would be no longer at the service of the public. Had this rumour proved correct it is difficult to say exactly what it would have meant to the breeders of Basset hounds, for, if we except Mr. Lord and Mr. Musson, no one has a single dog fit to take the place of Champion Forester and Paris. That the public know this is seen in the fact that, with two exceptions, every new face of merit seen on the benches in 1892 was sired by these two hounds.

“ I shall say but a few words concerning the Lane hounds, as they are now in their purity extinct in this country. Like the Le Couteulx, they were started by the gentleman whose name they bear, Mons. Lane, of Francqueville, near Boos. They are as a race bigger and heavier than the Le Couteulx, and lighter in colour, many of them being lemon and whites. It is, however, in their heads that we find the greatest difference, since the skin is tighter; the eyes more prominent and yellow, which gives them a wild appearance; the lips, too, are cut sharply away, and they appear to lack the great flews

which give such stately dignity to the Le Couteulx, as bred in this country. Their ears, however, set on very low, are of great length, though they do not curl so nicely inwards, some hounds having them, as it were, plastered to the side of the head.

"Their first appearance was in 1880, when Mr. Krehl imported two bitches; but they have never taken in this country, and have solely been used for crossing and outbreeding where size and ear are desired. I shall therefore say no more about them as nowadays they are extinct with us, no pure specimens having ever been born over here."

Sir Everett Millais ultimately found that through inter-breeding the Basset-hound was deteriorating in many respects, and, with the idea of improving his appearance and size, he looked out for a cross. He says :

"After inbreeding for nearly twenty years, it was obvious that the English Basset required fresh blood, primarily because the general mass of hounds were below the average in size; secondly, because there was increasing difficulty in breeding and rearing them; thirdly, because barrenness was becoming very prevalent; and fourthly, because when reared they succumbed through constitutional causes to distemper in a most alarming manner. The question, having determined to make the cross, was,

what hound to use which would give us the points we desired, and give increased stamina to the breed.

"I chose the Bloodhound, firstly, because the head of the Basset should resemble that of the Bloodhound; and secondly, because from my experimental work with Beagles, I knew that the question of a return to Basset formation in legs was but a matter of one or two generations. There therefore remained simply the question of colour, and this I was certain would come back very speedily.

"The first cross was between the Basset-hound Nicholas and the Bloodhound Inoculation, and the puppies were produced artificially by the method now known as 'Insemination.' Twelve in all were born, and they were all anatomically nearer the Basset than the Bloodhound, but in colour they took after the dam. These were Basset-Bloodhounds.

"The next cross was between Champion Forester and one of the above litter, viz., Rickey. There were seven puppies born, six of them were tricolours like the sire, and one black and tan like the dam. They all took after the Basset in anatomy, and were $\frac{3}{4}$ -bred Bassets with $\frac{1}{4}$ Bloodhound.

"The next cross was between Dulcie, one of the above litter, and Bowman. There were four pups in the litter, three tricolours and one lemon and white. They cannot be distinguished from pure-

bred Bassets. They are naturally hounds containing $\frac{7}{8}$ of Basset and $\frac{1}{8}$ of Bloodhound.

"The next cross was between one of the above litter and the Basset-hound Guignol. Here six puppies were born, four tricolours, one lemon and white, and one black and tan. They are perfectly indistinguishable from pure Bassets, and are composed of $\frac{15}{16}$ of Basset blood to $\frac{1}{16}$ of Bloodhound.

"The result of this set of experiments has brought about animals which cannot be distinguished from pure Bassets, and they can be used throughout the breed to bring in the trifling quatum of fresh blood necessary without damaging or altering the existent type in the slightest degree.

"Now, in going through these various crosses, it will be seen that in the first we get half-bred hounds taking mostly after the Basset in shape and the Bloodhound in colour. In the second cross we have a return to Basset colouring, and greater approach to the Basset in every way. In the third cross we get pure Bassets, and in the fourth the same, with what might be expected, one case of atavism to the Bloodhound in colour.

"We have, however, something more. I have said that one most desirable object was size, and when I stated that most of the hounds one meets with are below the average, I place the average at

such hounds as Fino de Paris, Fino V., Fino VI., and Forester.

"These have been the four great sires in direct descent and those most used, and it will be acknowledged, that with a few exceptions, few of their offspring have equalled them in size and bone. By the use, however, of the Bloodhound cross, both the third and fourth crosses are equal in size to Forester, and in addition we have the required points.

"It is, in my opinion, a mistake to call such hounds as the third and fourth crosses by the name of Basset-Bloodhounds, for this name applies only to the first cross. The third cross has only $\frac{1}{8}$ of Bloodhound in it, and the fourth $\frac{1}{16}$; in other words, is an animal a Basset-Bloodhound, whose great-grandmother or great-great-grandmother was a Bloodhound? I think most breeders would not pay very much attention to such relationship as this, and would call their animals pure Bassets. At least such is my intention. It would take a very good man to tell an Octoroon in the human subject, and I would defy him to pick out a cross below that. Why should we do so in dogs? Of course, in crossing one must expect a case of atavism now and then as is seen in the fourth cross, but by such phenomena as these, we are able to add a new colour to those now existing in Bassets."

Since his first introduction the Basset-hound has progressed, but, although his head and expression are, as a rule, almost handsome, and perhaps more beautiful than are to be found on any other hound, his unduly long body and crooked legs are, as in the case of the dachshund; likely to prevent his ever being a popular idol. Still he has many admirers, for he is quiet, sensible, and attractive likewise. As a companion he is affectionate, but his short legs and heavy body make him less adapted for outdoor exercise than many other varieties of the dog, especially where the roads and streets are dirty, and when he is kept in the house. A Basset-hound can take more mud into a drawing-room than a giant St. Bernard or a mastiff, and sometimes he possesses a rather strong odour of the kennels. However, kept clean and nicely groomed, his expression and gaudy markings are sure to attract attention anywhere, and he is not so quarrelsome as our own hounds.

During the period of his naturalisation with us, he has in several instances been used for hare hunting, and packs of Bassets for that purpose have from time to time been formed. The *Field* hunt table for 1896-7 contains names and particulars of three such packs; the Delapré, twelve couples with kennels at Delapré Abbey, Northampton; Mr. Moss' fourteen couples at Winters hill, Bishops Waltham; and

the Walhampton sixteen couples, with kennels at Walhampton, Lymington, Hants. Mr. Heseltine, master of the Walhampton Bassets, has many first-rate runs, and kills about a dozen hares annually. One part of the season the meets are in the neighbourhood of the New Forest, and later, hounds remove to near Cambridge, where the season finishes.

The Melbourne (Australian) Basset Hunt Club, of which Mr. J. C. Anderson is master, may be mentioned here and of it I need scarcely say that this pack was established by drafts from this country, and it includes a number of specially good hounds that were given to the hunt by Sir Everett Millais. At the Melbourne dog shows these Bassets have proved a great attraction. The usual mode of following Basset hounds is on foot, and by so doing some excellent hunting is seen. It seems really wonderful how quickly the heavily-bodied, short-legged hounds get over the ground.

There are some earnest sportsmen who prefer hunting the hare with the Basset rather than with the Beagle or Harrier. With the former, those on foot are certainly likely to see more of the run, and have, if their lungs be sound and their legs strong, a very good chance of being in at the death, though the chase may last a couple of hours or more. Harriers would kill a similar "jack hare" in less

than half an hour. Small beagles might perform the same feat in an hour or so. The latter are certainly the brighter and merrier hunters, and possess a greater amount of dash and go than the short-legged, heavily bodied hounds, which, perhaps, excel in melody. I do not think the Basset more painstaking and careful on a cold line than the Beagle.

Bassets have particularly fine voices, the tones of some of them being almost as lovely as those the otter-hounds can produce. The Basset is slow on scent, and, of course, his formation quite puts him out of court as likely to be of use in a stone wall country.

A pack can kill a hare well enough, but after the fox such hounds would not be of the slightest use; and even after the hare the Bassets require to be in an easy country, where the fences are few and the hills neither too steep nor too rough. On the Continent the various strains of the Basset-hound are used for beating and working the coverts, being utilised exactly in the same way as we in this country work spaniels, and, in a few cases, beagles.

There is a Basset Hound Club in England, which was established in 1883, and, by providing special prizes at various exhibitions, in many cases classes are placed in the schedule which, under ordinary conditions, would not be found there. Personally I have never owned a Basset. I have

admired them, and recollect how favourably I was struck with the appearance of a team that Sir Everett Millais showed at Wolverhampton about sixteen years ago, and alluded to earlier in this chapter. They were little known then, but certainly on that occasion formed one of the features of an interesting provincial show. Since that time (and before) Sir Everett had perhaps taken more interest in the Basset than any other Englishman, and may be considered the British authority on the variety, so no doubt what he has so kindly supplied will prove a valuable contribution on the subject.

Our typical Basset hound has been fully described earlier in this chapter. The club which looks after his welfare has not had any special scale of points drawn up, and in the absence of such I have compiled the following :

Head (including expression, skull, &c.)	20	Loins and hindquarters	15
Ears	15	Stern	5
Shoulders, chest, and neck	10	Coat	5
Legs and feet	15	Colour	5
		Character	10
	60		40

Grand Total 100.

Weight, dogs from 40lb. to 48lb.; bitches about 5lb. less.

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ARTHUR WARDLE

CHAPTER XX.

THE BASSET GRIFFON.

OF the Basset Griffon or rough coated basset hound Sir Everett Millais writes :

“Some twenty years ago, when I was at school in Paris, I used frequently to adjourn to a dog dealer’s, whose shop still exists close to the Arc de Triomphe. I was there not long since, and on asking Mons. Ravry if he could find me a couple of Basset Griffons, such as he used to keep years ago, he informed me that he could not, unless I put my hand very deeply into my pocket. These hounds were like otterhounds in form and texture of coat, likewise of the same colour, and quite as big as the largest smooth coated Bassets over here. About 1874—1875 I used to see a similar type of hound in a variety class at our leading shows, owned first by Dr. Seton, and then by Mr. J. C. Macdona. This hound is registered in the Kennel Club Stud Book as Romano, and a very handsome specimen he was; hard coated and workmanlike, brown-grey

grizzle in colour, and always admired by the hunting men who saw him either on the bench or in the ring.

" Since then I have never seen a hound like Romano in type and size, except Mrs. Ellis's Rocket, which, though not of exactly quite the same character, comes nearer to that mentioned above than the smaller varieties, which might pass better as rough-coated dachshunds than do duty at our shows as Basset Griffons.

" In the last class of these hounds which I had the pleasure of inspecting there were no less than four types, and if we included those owned by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, I may, I think, correctly state that there are five different types of Basset Griffons in this country at the present moment.

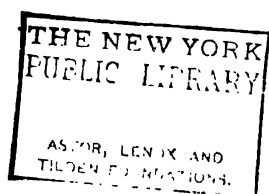
" Now, far be it from me to run down any of these types, or say that one is better than the other, but I will say, as I said at the commencement of this article, that in France there are any number of types of Bassets to choose from; and, while we in the smooth-coated variety chose the grandest of all the types, and have brought it to perfection, our brother Griffon fanciers have not gone about their business in the same fashion, and have certainly not obtained the *crème de la crème* of Basset Griffons. I have seen many of them, and for type and quality

it appears to me that those from Vendée are the biggest, handsomest, and best fitted for the work they have to do. They are, as I have described, such as those I used to see at Mons. Ravry's, and are just as low to the ground as their smooth-coated cousins."

At one time there appeared to be a likelihood of the rough basset hounds equalling the smooth variety in popularity, but such a result was never brought about. Special classes have often been provided for them, which received scant support, although at times strengthened by entries from the Continental Kennels of Mr. Puissant. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales repeatedly sends a couple or so of competitors from Sandringham; the Rev. W. Shield, Mr. F. Lowe, and Mr. G. R. Krehl keep a few of the variety, and so does Mr. H. Jones, but the strongest kennel in Britain is that of Mrs. Tottie, of Bell Busk, near Leeds, her Tambour, Truelove, Pervenche, and Treasure being an excellent team. Mr. E. Gerrich, Westbury-on-Tyne, Bristol, has likewise a useful and successful team of Basset Griffons, his Pierrot and Ringwood being especially choice, and Mr. Krehl's Trompette d'Erpent and Bonbonneau are a type of hound thoroughly hardy in appearance and not very unlike the otter hound in head, but of course smaller and almost as low in the leg as the ordinary Basset

hounds. In colour, however, the Basset Griffon varies considerably, for, whilst some are marked like ordinary hounds, others are fawn or fawn and white or fawn grizzle with a few black or darker coloured hairs showing here and there. However interesting these French hounds may be, I am afraid there is no vacancy for them in this country.

I believe Mrs. Tottie is crossing them with the smooth-coated Basset, but whether this will prove successful in improving either is a matter of doubt. On the Continent there are, as Sir Everett Millais has hinted, many different strains of this Basset Griffon, which, as a rule, are used for a similar purpose to our spaniels, viz., for beating the coverts for shooting purposes.



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CHAPTER XXI.

THE DACHSHUND.

WHETHER we shall ever get another dog from the Continent that, within so few years, has spread, multiplied, and become so much one of ourselves as the dachshund, is an open question. His disposition was genial, his habits were of the best, but he was quaint in look, and, if not so autocratic in appearance as the Borzoi, he trotted behind his master or mistress, with all the airs that follow high life, conveying an impression that he alone had the right to be where he was. Then, again, he was not a fighting dog, and, though excellent as a "watch and guard," he was not ill-natured, and his skin felt so soft and velvety that it became pleasanter to pat and stroke him than to do the same with a Dandie Dinmont terrier or another pet terrier that was said to be brought from the Isle of Skye; and he certainly appeared to be two animals rolled into one—a hound and a terrier—perhaps he is the connecting link between the two breeds.

With such qualifications he soon became a favourite, and from being represented in couples in the variety class at our dog shows he speedily appeared in scores, and had, as he has now, many separate divisions provided for him—challenge cups, and other valuable prizes, and a specialist club to look after his welfare to boot. These remarks, and subsequent ones, are in connection with the smooth-coated little hound as we acknowledge him, and do not include the rough-haired variety that has occasionally been seen here, and is pretty common in some parts of the German Empire.

Who was responsible for bringing the first dachshund to England I do not know, any more than I am acquainted with the particulars of the origin of the dog itself. Some sporting men of the old school have said he was nothing more than the common turnspit, which the cooks of their grandparents had used in their kitchens to turn the spit in which their joints and geese and turkeys were roasted. Perhaps there had been some connection between the two breeds; there was a resemblance, for both had short crooked legs and unduly long bodies, but the cooks' dogs were seldom whole coloured, as is pretty nearly always the case with the dachshund, at least with our British variety.

No doubt either the dachshund himself, or a dog

very like him, perhaps it was the turnspit, was known in the East long before the Christian era. Egyptian and Assyrian sculptures, some of them 2000 B.C., depict a dog much after his stamp, but whether he was then used as a sporting dog or as a companion, or to assist in culinary operations, we are not told, all we know is that at the court of King Thothmes III. he was a favourite. Since that period he has undergone many modifications. Even within the past quarter of a century, during his association with our English dogs, his character has changed somewhat. In Germany, Belgium, and other parts of the Continent, from whence he came to us, he is used as a sporting dog, to draw or drive the fox and badger, but here he is for the most part fancied as a companion and for exhibition purposes, and his rapid growth to popularity is evidence of his excellence in both respects. Still, even our English dachshunds will do their work well when properly trained to the duty.

Comparatively few of our dachshunds have any chance of showing how good they are at sport. If properly entered they have no superiors at their legitimate game of going to ground to fox and badger, when the latter have to be dug out. I do not for a moment suggest that they will bolt a hunted fox as quickly as a huntsman's terrier—that is not their

game. All the dachshund professes to do is to find the fox or badger in his earth and remain there until you can dig to him. He makes no attempt to fight or attack the "varmint," but simply barks at it incessantly. Then if the game does turn his back upon his plucky little opponent, the latter immediately proceeds to business by a fierce attack in the rear, which is discontinued when the fox or badger turns again and faces the hound.

This description of work, of course, enables the hunters to dig with great accuracy in the direction the fox or badger lies, and the wary dachshund is rarely badly hurt, whereas the terrier that gets to close quarters with a badger, in his natural earth, will, as a rule, get terribly mauled. Still, I have had fox terriers that would bark and bark until the game budged, but this barking is not always good enough to drive a fox, and under no circumstances will it send either otter or badger into the open. Particulars of a few day's sport with dachshunds appear at the end of this chapter.

When duly entered the dachshund makes an excellent line hunter, and Mr. Harry Jones, of Ipswich, tells me that his bitch Juliet was regularly hunted with a pack of Basset-hounds, and was about the most reliable of the lot. Of course,

one has not to go further for an instance of the general gameness of the dachshund race than the trials with them on the Continent at both foxes and badger, which the best dogs have to treat much in the same manner as our terriers have to do here on certain occasions. It is quite the custom for such trials to be arranged at certain dog shows in Belgium and Germany for the delectation of English visitors, who, however, do not as a rule take particularly kindly to what some persons consider quite a high branch of sport.

About the period when the dachshund was gaining its popularity here, considerable correspondence about him took place in the *Field* as to what he was and what he was not, and, if I make no mistake, Mr. Barclay Hanbury, Mr. John Fisher (Cross Hill, Leeds), and others, gave their opinions on the subject. However, notwithstanding the complications likely to ensue on the introduction of a new breed, especially when one authority quoted Dr. Fitzinger, who said there were twelve varieties of the dachshund—a statement fortunately qualified by the remark that they were mostly cross-bred—all went well. In due course something like the correct article was fixed upon, and from that we have our dogs of the present time. As a fact I see less discrepancy in the type of the modern dachshund

than is to be noticed in some other purely English breeds—the fox terrier, to wit.

Although some of our best dogs are accepted by German authorities as excellent specimens, still our British breeders have in a degree constructed a line of their own, and where, on the Continent at any rate, two varieties were acknowledged, the hound type and the terrier type, here a happy medium has been struck, and the handsome dog now seen on our show benches is the result. I have a large amount of information as to the work and general description of the quaint little dog as he is seen in Germany, and where he divides national favouritism with the Great Dane, but I fancy, in a book dealing with British dogs alone (and those that we have made such by fancy or manipulation) it will be best not to trespass on foreign ground. The Germans especially do well by their favourite dog, and the Dachshund Stud Book published by them is certainly, for completeness and tasteful elaboration, ahead of anything of the kind we have in England. As an instance of what is done in this particular, it may be mentioned that where the dog alluded to is red in colour, particulars of him are printed in red ink, and where he is black and tan the usual black ink is used. The same arrangement applies to the portraits of dogs,

with which the pages of this Stud Book are thickly interspersed.

Some twenty years ago Herr Beckmann, one of the German authorities, dealing with the different types of the breed, wrote as follows :

“ Having concentrated all varieties of the badger dog to one single class—the crooked-legged, short-haired dog, with head neither hound nor terrier like, weight from 18lb. to 20lb., colour black-tan and its variations—we shall still meet many varying forms. With some attention we shall soon distinguish the *common* breed and the *well* or *high-bred* dachshund. The first is a stout, strong-boned, muscularly built dog, with large head and strong teeth ; the back not much arched, sometimes even straight ; tail long and heavy ; forelegs strong and regularly formed ; the head and tail often appear to be too large in the dog ; the hair is rather coarse, thick-set, short, and wiry, lengthened at the underside of the tail, without forming a brush or feather, and covering a good deal of the belly. These dogs are good workmen, and are less affected by weather than high-bred ones ; but they are very apt to exceed 18lb. and even 20lb. weight, and soon get fat if not worked frequently. From this common breed originates the well and high-bred dog, which may at any time be produced again from it by

careful selection and inbreeding without any cross. The *well* and *high-bred* dog is smaller in size, finer in bone, more elegantly built, and seldom exceeds 16lb. to 17lb. weight; the thin, slight tapering tail is only of medium length; the hair is very short, glossy like silk, but not soft; the under part of the body is very thin haired, rendering these nervous and high spirited dogs rather sensitive to wet ground and rain. These two breeds are seldom met with in their purity, the vast majority of dachshunds in Germany ranging between the two, and differing in shape very much, as they are more or less well-bred or neglected. In this third large group we still meet with many good and useful dogs, but also all those aberrant forms, with pig snouts and short under jaws, apple-headed skulls, deep set or staring eyes, short necks, wheel backs, ring tails, fore-legs joining at the knees, and long hind legs bent too much in the stifles and hocks."

That we have not the latter in this country can with truth be stated, and I think the majority of the best dogs with us now will quite equal the standard of the best dogs as laid down by Germany's great authority.

So far as my judgment goes, English breeders like Mr. W. Arkwright, Mr. M. Wootten, Mr. A. W. Byron, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. A. O. Mudie, Mr. H. A.

Walker, Captain and Mrs. Barry, Miss A. G. Pigott, Mr. E. S. Woodiwiss, Mr. N. D. Smith, Miss Ramsbottom, and others, have produced dachshunds quite equal to any that have appeared of late years at the leading Continental exhibitions, although, naturally, more specimens are bred there than with us.

Mr. Jones believes our modern dachshunds are far more typical than they have ever been, and with this opinion I thoroughly coincide. There may be cases in which legs, feet, chest, and loin have been neglected in trying to produce beautiful heads, but this has not been carried out to any great extent. The best dachshunds of to-day are particularly sound, have excellent chest and loins, and, considering their short legs and long bodies, get over the ground at almost an extraordinary rate, and such animals as Mr. Jones's Pterodactyl, Jackdaw, and Jim Crow; Miss Pigott's Primula, Prima Donna, and Belle Blonde; Mrs. Nugent's Widgeon; Mr. Woodiwiss's Wiseacre, and some others which could be mentioned, are quite able to more than hold their own at any of the Continental shows.

Although, as I have previously stated, the dachshund is usually kept in this country as a companion and for show purposes, he is quite capable as a sporting dog. Personally I have never seen

one of the little hounds at work, so for information as to their abilities in this respect I cannot speak of my own knowledge—so Mr. Jones kindly acceded to my wishes and furnished the following very interesting account of three or four days badger hunting with dachshunds of his own. That they acquitted themselves with credit no one will deny, and at any rate performed their duties as well as our terriers would have done under similar circumstances.

“I had some excellent sport with dachshunds in the spring of 1878. I arranged to pay three visits to friends, all of whom promised to introduce me to some badgers in their wild state. I started for Gloucestershire with two couples of dachshunds, each about three years old and well used to going to ground. The first time we went out was on the Wednesday before the Good Friday. It was full moon, and the night was very bright and still. In addition to the four dachshunds my friends ran four terriers. The earthstopper had gone on before and stopped all the main earths, and remained by them until we came. We did not net any of the places, our object being to run a badger to ground in a small earth and dig him out.

“From 2 a.m. to 5 p.m. the little pack hunted well, and were very merry sometimes; but it was the

thickest underwood I was ever in. When you left a ride you were lost amid the tangle of brambles. A badger was viewed once, and had a sharp tussle with one of the terriers. The dachshunds kept well together, and on one occasion hunted out in the open for a long way, but I think they were then on the line of a fox. However, at about 5 a.m. it was found that one of the main earths had been unstopped and two of the terriers could be heard hard at it in different places. Being well supplied with digging appliances we commenced operations, and about 10 a.m. had dug to one of the terriers, which we found terribly torn and bitten. After getting the terrier out, a dachshund was put in, and we soon saw him backing slowly out, and, to our astonishment, he brought with him a young badger, not quite half grown, dead and nearly cold. This the terrier must have killed early in the morning.

"The dachshund was sent to ground again, and he was soon heard baying close to where we had heard the other terrier, but his voice was so loud we could tell exactly where he was.

"Then, by twelve o'clock, we had dug to the second terrier, and he was more injured than the first, so they were both sent home.

"The badger now seemed to shift his quarters,

for, on putting a second dachshund in, we heard both dogs baying close together in a different place, and, after the quietness of the terriers, the loud baying of the dachshunds seemed to encourage the men in their digging, for there was no doubt as to the whereabouts of the dogs. About 3 p.m. we dug down to them, and soon bagged a very fine badger.

“Knowing, however, that there was more than one badger in, for the terriers had been working at different places, the four dachshunds were all sent underground together. They could not find the other badger, but one of them brought out another half grown one that had been killed by the terriers.

“I left that night (Thursday) for Monmouthshire and after midnight on Good Friday we started off with the four little hounds and a couple of rough haired terriers for some very large woods, but with good rides in them. All the earths were well attended to with faggot bundles, the last of them was being stopped when we arrived. The night was cloudy and occasionally quite dark, but the dogs hunted very well, and were close on to a badger several times, but failed to mark one to ground. About 6 a.m. the dachshunds (both terriers had been badly bitten in the wood, and were sent to

the inn) took a line towards the river Usk. This line they hunted very prettily for a long way, when two of them went to ground by the riverside in an earth about six feet below the top of the bank, and in a moment they were baying in a way that left no doubt they were at something. I was half afraid it might be a fox, but some hairs picked off the side and top of the entrance proved it was used by badgers; and the unmistakable imprint of the badger's nails, quite fresh, close to the entrance, settled the question.

"Before commencing digging, the men expressed a great wish to send to the village for a noted terrier that was there; but this we would not permit, and they did not hesitate to say they had no confidence in a dachshund at a 'dig out,' but how they had reason to change their opinions will be told later on.

"The earth ran nearly straight under the field, not more than some five or six feet deep, and the loud voices of the dachshunds could very plainly be heard baiting their game. We cut a trench right across what we thought would be about the end of the earth, leaving plenty of room to work; but just as we broke into the earth the badger went 10 or 12 feet further underground, the dogs following him close up. Thus there was nothing for it but to dig

.

another trench, having first securely stopped the earth towards the river. This second trench cut right into the end of the earth, and but for the spade touching the badger we should have bagged him then, but he went forward facing the dogs, and remained about half way between the two trenches.

“ I then put the other two dogs in from the end of the earth, and at it they went, and whichever way the badger faced he was attacked in the rear.

“ He showed himself several times at the mouth of the hole, but we missed him with the tongs. At last he made a bolt in a hurry, and over went the man with the tongs, who was then on his knees, looking down the hole, and, jumping up the corner of the trench, the badger made for the river bank.

“ A shepherd had come to look on, and, having his sheepdog with him, the latter immediately gave chase, catching up to the badger just as he reached the edge of the bank. The badger landed beautifully on the narrow ledge upon which the earth opened, but the poor sheepdog went right over down to the bed of the river, a fall of nearly twenty feet. The dachshunds were helped out of the trench, everyone ran and halloed, and there was great excitement. The badger turned up in a dry ditch full of brambles, and, by the combined aid

of the dachshunds and the sheepdog, was ultimately bagged.

"On the Monday I was driven about fourteen miles for a third hunt, as my friend had seen a badger quite recently in the wood, and had made all arrangements for stopping the earths. I took the recently caught badger with me, as it was wanted to turn down, and the one we had bagged on the Thursday was of the wrong sex. The moon was late in rising, so we did not leave the house until 2.30 a.m. on Tuesday. The earth-stopper had all the main earths stopped, and a fire burning in front, by which he had made himself comfortable.

"This night we had only the four dachshunds; they did a lot of hunting, several times running well, and giving plenty of music. They worked round the big wood twice, and when near the middle two badgers were seen quite close together, one following the other, and not far behind was old Waldmann, throwing his tongue freely on their line. My friend gave a view holloa that could be heard all up the hillside, and soon afterwards these two badgers were run to ground in a small earth. Waldmann got in before he could be taken up, and I could not get him out. I had particularly wanted to run a red bitch that had not done much work.

"We again dug a trench right across the line of

the earth beyond where we judged the badgers to lie. To prevent them making a bolt we stopped the earth behind the dog with a large stone, leaving only a small hole to admit the air. We dug right on to the nose of one badger, which itself was digging as hard as it could, and had nearly buried himself, still we got it. Then we cleared the earth out, and in trying to get hold of the second with the tongs caused it to make a drive at poor old Waldmann, who was blocked in by the stone. The dog received an ugly bite, but we soon had our second badger in the sack.

“I returned that night with only one damaged dog, and three very successful ‘dig-outs.’

“When we went to the stables for the dogs and Saturday’s badger, and had not very much time for the train, we discovered our badger had got out of the box, and was not to be found. A cast round with the dogs and they marked him up the chimney in the harness room; he had reached a ledge in the flue, and get him down we could not, so had to leave him. He was ultimately taken and sent on, and I believe helped to make several good earths that are now used by foxes.

“The following moon I took the same four dachshunds into Warwickshire, where I had often been with my terriers on former occasions; but this

was the first introduction of the dachshunds. We tried to run a badger into the nets, but were not successful, though the dachshunds found one in the meadows, and had some capital hunting before they lost him. There were a lot of rabbits about here, and I rather think they caused our hounds to run riot a little.

"After breakfast we had a walk round all the likely places where the badgers might have gone, taking a hardy-looking terrier with us, one, however, too big to get to ground. About 10 a.m. the dachshunds marked a badger in a nice little earth, and, before lunch, we had him in a sack; one man was bitten in the thumb by the badger, and our host was bitten in the leg by a dachshund. In the excitement of 'bagging' he picked one of the dachshunds up by the tail, flinging him under his arm, and was stooping down and picking up another, when No. 1 pinned him in the calf of the leg. Needless to say he dropped the two dogs.

"The biting for that day was not yet over, for, when talking at lunch of taking the badger on the bank of the Usk, the question was raised, could the four dachshunds so hamper a badger in the open as to enable him to be taken with the tongs? Nothing would satisfy the party but a trial, so the badger was turned out in a very hilly field, when he made off up

hill, and from the way in which he bowled the dachshunds over, I have no doubt he would have got away, had not the big terrier been slipped. During the process of getting hold of the badger, a terrier puppy, about nine months, came up from the house, and hearing a great deal of 'loo loo,' and not knowing quite what to do, quietly seized the man who was energetically trying to get hold of the badger with the tongs, and left his mark on him.

"I have had many such days, of which the above are fair examples, and from these results am quite convinced that for digging out a fox or badger, nothing can beat a properly entered dachshund."

Although new breeds of dogs are being introduced, I fancy that the dachshund will continue to hold his own, for he is by no means difficult to rear from puppyhood, and, as I have already stated, is a desirable dog as a companion. He is, moreover, one of the canine favourites of Her Majesty the Queen at Windsor. Seldom used for his particular work in this country, nor for hunting in packs, for our beagles and harriers will do the latter better than he, and, for going to ground after fox or badger or otter we have our own terriers, which we cannot afford to lose; still the dachshund has deservedly popularised himself, and when in his puppydom he has chased a sheep or made a

raid on the poultry yard, it is no more than other young untrained dogs of our own have done and will do to the end.

The fact that the dachshund has a peculiarly nice skin makes him specially adaptable as an agreeable pet dog; and when to this is added a pleasant face, an endearing disposition, and, for a hound, a tolerable immunity from the aroma of the kennel, there is little wonder he has become popular.

What a dachshund in the flesh is like, Mr. Wardle's drawings at the commencement of this chapter plainly tell, and the following standard, drawn up by the Club, will give additional knowledge to the searchers for information.

"*Head and skull.*—Long, level, and narrow; peak well developed; no stop; eyes intelligent, and somewhat small; follow body in colour.

"*Ears.*—Long, broad, and soft; set on low and well back; carried close to the head.

"*Jaw.*—Strong, level and square to the muzzle; canines recurvent.

"*Chest.*—Deep and narrow; breast bone prominent.

"*Legs and Feet.*—Fore legs very short and strong in bone, well crooked, not standing over; elbows well clothed with muscle, neither in nor out; feet large, round, and strong, with thick pads and strong

nails. Hind legs smaller in bone and higher, hind feet smaller. The dog must stand true, *i.e.*, equally on all parts of the foot.

"Skin and Coat.—Skin thick, loose, supple, and in great quantity; coat dense, short and strong.

"Loin.—Well arched, long and muscular.

"Stern.—Long and strong, flat at root, tapering to the tip; hair on under side coarse; carried low except when excited. Quarters very muscular,

"Body.—Length from back of head to root of stern, two and a half times the height at shoulder. Fore ribs well sprung, back ribs very short.

"Colour.—Any colour, nose to follow body colour; much white objectionable.

"Symmetry and quality.—The dachshund should be long, low and graceful, not cloddy.

Head and skull	12	Ears	6½
Jaw	5	Chest	7
Legs and feet	20	Skin and coat	13
Loin	8	Stern.....	5
Body	8½	Colour	4
Symmetry and quality ...	11		
	64½		35½

Grand Total 100.

"The weight: Dogs about 21lb., bitches about 18lb.

"The Dachshund Club do not advocate point judging, the figures are only used to show the comparative value of the features."

It will be noticed in the above Club description that "any colour" is allowed, with only the proviso that "much white is objectionable." The accepted colours with us are red, black and tan, chocolate (or brown), and chocolate and tan. There is some variation in the shades of hue, especially amongst the reds, some of which are so pale as to be almost yellow. The black and tans and the deeper reds are the handsomest, and a white foot or feet and a little white on the breast are no detriment. "Mouse" coloured specimens are occasionally met, sometimes with tan shadings, sometimes without. This is not a desirable colour, and "wall" or "china eyes" often accompany it. Then we have the marbled or mired varieties, tortoiseshell they are often called, but most frequently "dappled," and under the latter name classes are repeatedly provided for them at our leading shows. They are, however, not particularly well filled, though Mr. E. S. Woodiwiss usually sends a number of fair specimens. Frequently these "dapples" have the "wall" or "china eyes." The dachshund is what may be termed a whole coloured dog, at least this is what we have made him here since his adoption.

White as the ground colour is as objectionable in Germany as with us, but on the Continent a greater variety of colour is allowed, Herr Beckmann giving the legitimate colours, dividing them into four groups as follows :

First ; black, chocolate, light brown (red), hare pied, all with tan shadings. Secondly ; the same colour without the tan markings. Thirdly ; slate, mouse, silver grey, either whole coloured or with tan marks ; eyes, blueish or colourless (wall eyed) ; and fourthly, variegated, slate, mouse, silver grey with irregular black, chocolate or tan marks and blotches, with or without tan, and with one or two "wall eyes." Any one of these colours is as good as another in the Fatherland, but in case two dogs are of equal merit in other respects, the black and tan is to be preferred, or the dog most richly coloured and free from white.

What has been written, for the most part applies to the smooth coated dachshund as he is mostly known in this country. There are, however, other varieties with harder coats, some wire haired, some more or less silky haired. These longer coated hounds have not found much favour with us, although a few have occasionally appeared at our shows, where they have not attracted much notice ; and it seems odd that every now and then a rough

or long coated puppy is produced from absolutely smooth parents. A peculiar instance of this is quoted in the *Field* of Jan. 19, 1895. The Kennel Book issued by the German Teckel-Klub (Teckel=Dächsel=Badgerhound) distinguishes three varieties of the dachshund—(a) the common short haired or smooth haired; (b) the rough haired; (c) the long haired, which is described as follows: "This variety of our common dachshund is probably derived from an original cross with the spaniel, but has been gradually bred into an independent species. With regard to shape, colour, and size, the points are identical with those of the common dachshund, the silky hair of the long-haired species forming the only distinction. This hair is soft and curly, and forms lengthy plumes under the throat, the lower parts of the body, and the backs of the legs. It is longest of all on the ears and on the lower surface of the tail, where it forms a regular 'flag,' like that of the setter or spaniel." The rough haired variety is represented by a dog strongly resembling a rough Irish terrier, but of course not so high on the legs. An original cross (in this case with a rough coated dog) may not unreasonably be surmised here also. On the Continent, the classes for dachshunds are arranged according to weight, but here the classification is according to colour and sex.

As to the voice or cry of the dachshund, he is not, as a rule, so free with his tongue as either the basset hound or beagle, but, of course, there are exceptions to this. One old hound, Mr. Harry Jones's Dina, was particularly musical in this respect, and her voice, in addition to being loud, was beautifully deep and mellow. Her daughter Juliet, though equally free, had a much less pleasant note.

There is no doubt that where dachshunds have been entered to work with terriers and used for the duties usually ascribed to a terrier, they are inclined to hunt with less music than if used as a pack or worked in connection with basset-hounds. Indeed this is pretty much the case with all hounds, and I have known a foxhound hunt pretty nearly mute when alone, but in company with his pack be as free with his tongue as any other hound; a similar thing is alluded to in the article on the bloodhound at the commencement of this volume.

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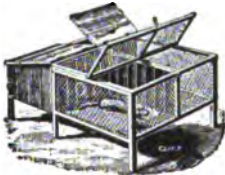
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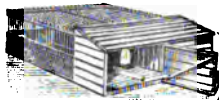
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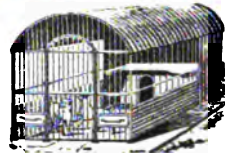
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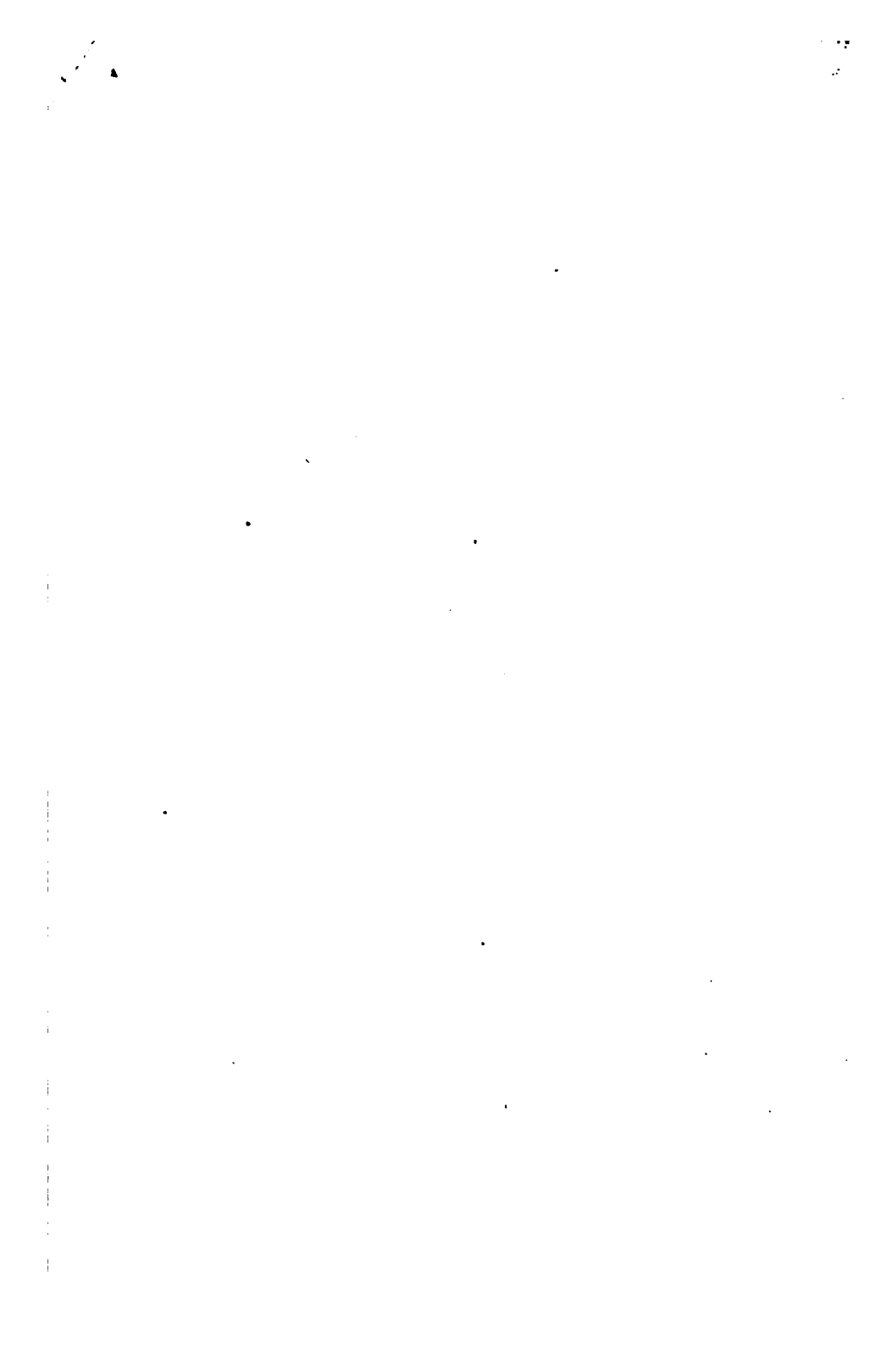
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